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Ministry of Social Services and Housing

SERVICES FOR PEOPLE

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To the Honourable David Lam
Lieutenant-Governor of the
Province of British Columbia

May It Please Your Honor:

I have the honor to submit the Annual Report of the Ministry of Social Services and Housing for the fiscal year ended March 3l, 1988.

Claude Richmond
Minister of Social Services
and Housing

To the Honourable Claude Richmond
Minister of Social Services and Housing

Sir:

I am pleased to submit for your consideration the Annual Report of the Ministry of Social Services and Housing for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1988.

Richard K. Butler
Deputy Minister

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

The 1987-88 fiscal year has been one marked by major and diverse accomplishments. Advances in child protection, care for the handicapped, subsidized housing, income assistance and other areas within the ministry's mandate have been achieved thanks to the support and dedication of all of our employees. Their contribution does not pass unnoticed.

Highlights of the year include:

Increased Responsibility to Native Tribes for Child Welfare Services

Child welfare agreements were signed with the Nuu-Chah-Nulth Tribal Council, the Carrier-Sekani Tribal Council and the McLeod Lake Band. The agreements give the Indian Bands a more active role in delivering child welfare services on reserves.

The ministry has also made a commitment that a child's band will be consulted when permanent plans are being made for native children-in-care if they cannot be returned to their birth parents.

Community Living for the Mentally Handicapped

Placement of Woodlands residents into community settings continued and 94 mentally handicapped people left Woodlands and moved into small family-like homes or community facilities this fiscal year.

Services to Street Kids

An innovative new program, a first in North America, was introduced in Victoria and Vancouver. Reconnect assists street kids to move to a healthier, safer lifestyle and helps to prevent young people from becoming street kids. Reconnect coordinates community

agency activities and provides the additional services needed to reconnect young people back to their communities. Almost $2 million was allocated to programs for street youth in 1987-88.

Foster Parent Recruitment

A province-wide foster home recruitment campaign began in February 1988. The campaign will run for three years and features television ads, a toll free inquiry line, community activities and corporate sponsorships. The goal of the campaign is to increase the number of foster parents, to improve retention of the foster parents currently available and to acknowledge the important contribution of foster parents.

Social Housing Commitments

Through a five-year agreement with the Government of Canada, commitments were made to provide 1,886 social housing units during 1987. The units were targeted to families with children, senior citizens, older single people and people with disabilities.

Increase in Income Assistance Benefits

All recipients of basic GAIN received an increase in the shelter component ranging from 10 per cent to 20 per cent. At the same time the ministry simplified the GAIN rate structure.

Establishment of Adoption Registry

In January 1988, the British Columbia Adoption Registry began operation. The new registry will match adult adoptees and birth parents when both parties have requested it. It is administered by the Vital Statistics Division of the Ministry of Health.

Registry of Wheelchair-Modified Housing

The British Columbia Housing Management Commission (BCHMC) has established a computerized registry which maintains an inventory of nonprofit, cooperative, private and government owned units modified for wheelchair use, a registry of persons requiring such accommodation and a referral and information service to match applicants with vacancies.

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SECTION I
INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL SERVICES AND HOUSING MANDATE

Under the Ministry of Human Resources Act, the ministry has responsibility for matters relating to social and public welfare and social assistance. Within this jurisdiction, the ministry administers a range of social service and income security programs. These programs may be broadly divided into the following types of services: income assistance services which help people in financial need; services to assist individuals to retain or regain employment; services for families and children which support families and protect the safety and well-being of children; residential programs and services for mentally handicapped individuals; and services for seniors.

Policy, priorities and program content for these services and programs are determined by government through legislation and through cabinet and ministerial direction.

MISSION STATEMENT

THE MISSION OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL SERVICES AND HOUSING IS TO MEET THE BASIC NEEDS FOR FOOD, SHELTER AND CLOTHING OF PERSONS IN NEED; TO PROTECT CHILDREN WHO ARE SUFFERING FROM NEGLECT AND ABUSE AND TO PROVIDE CARE FOR, AND SUPPORT SERVICES TO, THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED TO ASSIST THEIR INTEGRATION INTO THE COMMUNITY. SERVICES ARE PROVIDED IN A MANNER WHICH PROMOTES MAXIMUM INDEPENDENCE AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY.

THE FOLLOWING GOALS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED TO ACHIEVE THIS MISSION:

1. TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS AND TO ASSIST THOSE PERSONS TO RETAIN OR REGAIN FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE.

2. TO RECEIVE AND INVESTIGATE COMPLAINTS OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT OF CHILDREN. TO FULFILL THIS GOAL IN A MANNER WHICH MAINTAINS OR RESTORES THE INTEGRITY OF THE FAMILY WHENEVER POSSIBLE.

3. TO PROVIDE CARE FOR AND/OR SUPPORT SERVICES WHICH ASSIST MENTALLY HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS TO ACHIEVE MAXIMUM INDEPENDENCE AND PARTICIPATE AS FULL MEMBERS OF THEIR COMMUNITIES.

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FINANCIAL REPORT

MINISTRY FINANCIAL DATA

Table 1
Summary of Estimates and Expenditures by Major Program Classification, 1987-88, $Millions

	Authorized Budget*	Actual Expenditures	Over/(Under) Expenditure
GAIN Programs**	906.7	905.4	(1.3)
Rehabilitation & Support Services	159.0	152.8	(6.2)
Services to Families and Children	135.2	136.1	0.9
Services to Seniors	35.8	33.0	(2.8)
Direct Community Services	84.6	88.1	3.5
Administration	48.1	41.7	(6.4)
Housing	16.8	16.3	(0.5)
TOTAL	1,386.2	1,373.4	(12.8)

For purposes of program classification, line social worker salaries are treated as direct program costs.

Detailed figures on ministry expenditures are available from Public Accounts, 1987-88 Volume 1, published by the Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations.

* Main Estimates Voted (details are available from Estimates, Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 1988, published by the Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations) as adjusted for transfers of funds during the fiscal year.

** Includes Health Care, Dental Care and Opportunities to Independence.

Table 2
Actual Expenditures, Comparison of Fiscal Years 1983-84 to 1987-88 ($000s)

Year	Income Assistance and GAIN for Handicapped Benefits	Other Ministry Programs	Total Ministry Expenditure
1987-88	$864,959	$508,488	$1,373,447
1986-87	856,354	644,626	1,500,980
1985-86	883,374	584,699	1,468,073
1984-85	855,197	561,843	1,417,040
1983-84	781,561	517,403	1,298,964

FEDERAL COST-SHARING IN PROVINCIAL PROGRAMS

The Ministry of Social Services and Housing provides a range of services to families, to children and to people who are disadvantaged because of age, handicap or unemployment. The federal government contributes a significant share of the ministry's operating and program costs by agreement with the province under the Canada Assistance Plan (CAP) Act of April 1, 1966.

The CAP accounting office of the ministry's Finance Division is responsible for filing all claims for cost-sharing under CAP. The federal government, however, restricts the types of programs it supports. For example, the ministry provides Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) to persons 65 years of age and over, but the federal government does not share in the cost of these programs because eligibility is not determined by a test of need. During the fiscal year 1987-88, the Province of British Columbia received a total of $625 million from the federal government with respect to current year expenditures and an additional $6 million of revenue for adjustments to previous years' claims.

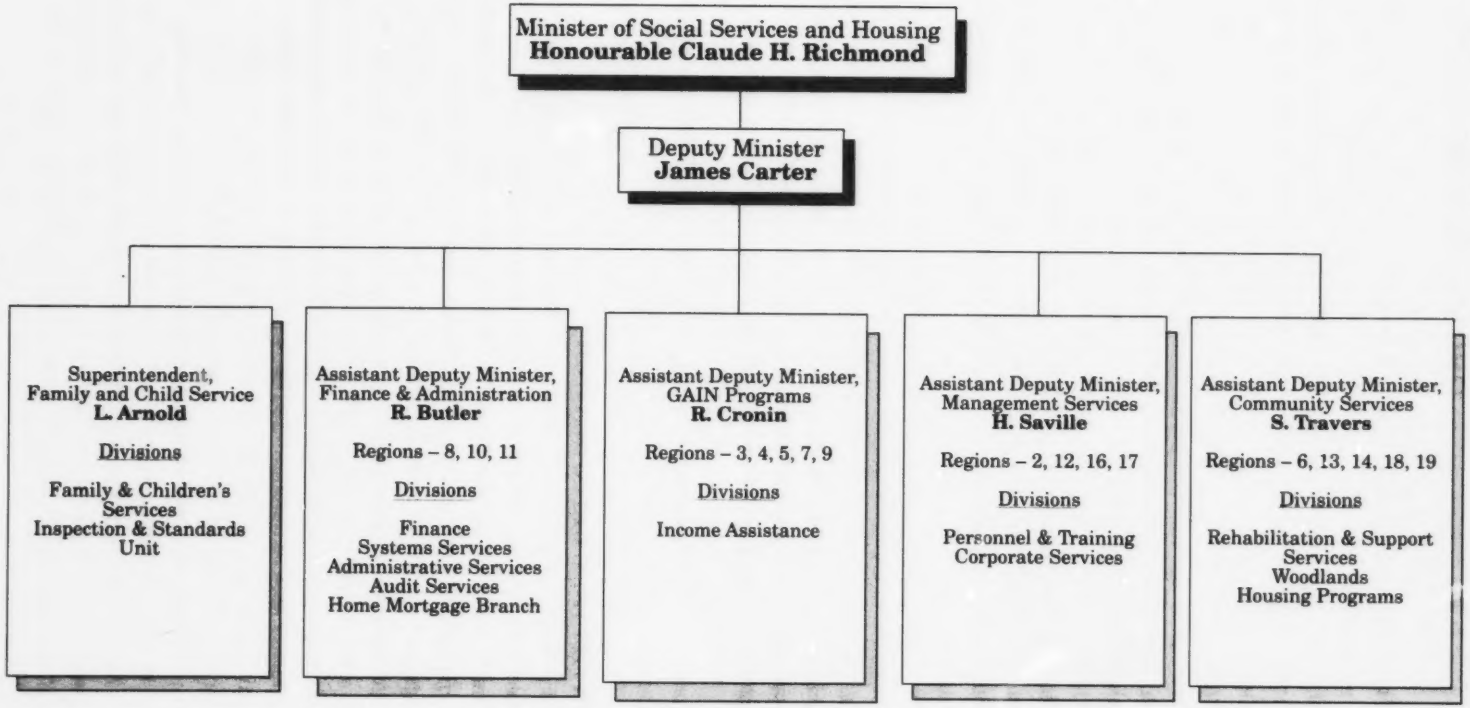
All cost-sharing under CAP is based on claims submitted by the Ministry of Social Services and Housing. To ensure that full advantage is taken of cost-sharing provisions, the ministry consults on an on-going basis with other ministries in the province. In 1987-88, the CAP accounting office recovered $52 million for other ministries' programs, including $3 million from cost sharing of expenditures from previous years. In addition, $4 million was received from the federal government and distributed to municipalities for CAP cost-sharing of municipal grants to approved agencies.

Ministry expenditures totalled $1,373.4 million of which $1,152 million was eligible for cost-sharing. The ministry also receives revenue from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) for the cost of care for registered status Indian children. In 1987-88, the ministry claimed $15.7 million from INAC.

The majority of social housing programs are cost-shared with the federal government through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). Net expenditure by BCHMC for administering all programs in 1987 was $36,376,592, of which $34,461,675 covered programs with federal government cost-sharing arrangements. CHMC's contribution to this expenditure amounted to $21,423,777.

SECTION III
ORGANIZATION

Ministry of Social Services and Housing
Organization Chart, March 31, 1988



ORGANIZATION

MINISTRY ORGANIZATION

The ministry is structured on a regional model. Program support services, which are centralized within the ministry headquarters, serve to complement the regional functions.

The regional, institutional, and headquarters administrative levels are interrelated and designed to decentralize the decision making process wherever possible. The deputy minister and executive committee provide direction and control of the organization.

The ministry executive consists of five assistant deputy ministers, including the Superintendent of Family and Child Service, who report to the deputy minister. The Superintendent of Family and Child Service reports through the deputy minister to the minister.

Executive committee members advise the deputy minister on policy and administration, and assume overall responsibility for assigned programs and the delivery of all services in designated geographic regions of the province. The deputy minister is responsible to the minister for ensuring that the ministry's policies, priorities and program content, as determined by government, are properly administered.

Assignments to executive committee members as of March 31, 1988, are shown on the organization chart.

DIVISIONAL ORGANIZATION

As of March 31, 1988, there were three program divisions. These were Income Assistance Division, Family and Children's Services Division and Rehabilitation and Support Services Division. The major responsibilities of program divisions include program review, co-ordination and monitoring, policy development and documentation, and consultative services for regional staff on policy and procedural questions.

There are six other divisions providing centralized support services to executive committee and to field staff in the regions. These include Finance Division, which also administers the GAIN for Seniors benefits, Bus Pass Program, the Dental Services Program and the SAFER Program; Personnel Division; Administrative Services Division; Systems Services Division; Audit Services Division and Corporate Services Division (which encompasses Research, Evaluation and Statistics Branch, Federal-Provincial Agreements Branch, Information Services Branch and Policy, Planning and Legislation Branch).

SERVICE DELIVERY SYSTEM

In order to provide service to qualifying clients the ministry has developed a network of district offices throughout British Columbia. District offices are responsible for assessing need under the Guaranteed Available Income for Need (GAIN) Act and for providing income assistance and employment rehabilitation services to clients. In addition to providing a range of support services such as child day care, infant development, and child care counsellors, the ministry's district offices are also responsible for investigating child abuse complaints and bringing matters to court when it appears that a child is in need of protection under the Family and Child Service Act. District office staff supervise the placement of children in the care and custody of the Superintendent of Family and Child Service (children-in-care) in foster homes or other resources and assist with the planning and community placements for mentally handicapped individuals. Only the SAFER Program, Bus Pass Program and GAIN for Seniors Supplement Program are provided through central offices in Victoria.

District offices are staffed by financial assistance workers who work mainly with applicants for income assistance, and by social workers who provide family services and protection services for children. These staff are supported by clerical staff, employment rehabilitation officers and regional inspectors. Rehabilitation officers and regional inspectors may operate from a centralized regional office. The organization of each district office varies depending on the needs of the community being served. Each office is under the direction of a district manager.

REGIONAL ORGANIZATION

The province has been divided into 17 management regions, each under the direction of a regional director. Regional directors are accountable for the delivery of social services and income assistance programs within their regions. They supervise the activities of the district offices within their regions and ensure that quality service is delivered according to established policy. Regional directors have significant autonomy in managing staff, deploying resources, reviewing and approving contracted services, and recommending grants to community agencies. They are also responsible for approving services in exceptional situations, co-ordinating regional personnel and staff training activities, formulating budgets and handling public inquiries and client appeals.

The ministry's 17 regions and district offices are:

Region 2: **Vancouver Burrard** (regional office and 11 district offices).

Region 3: **Okanagan** (regional office in Vernon); district offices in Grand Forks, Kelowna, Oliver, Penticton, Summerland, Vernon, Westbank and Winfield.

Region 4: **Kootenays** (regional office in Nelson); district offices in Castlegar, Cranbrook, Creston, Fernie, Invermere, Kimberley, Nelson, New Denver, Sparwood and Trail.

Region 5: **Prince George-Cariboo** (regional office in Prince George); district offices in Fort St. James, McBride, Mackenzie, Prince George, Quesnel, Vanderhoof and Williams Lake.

Region 6: **Fraser Valley** (regional office in Clearbrook); district offices in Abbotsford, Aldergrove, Chilliwack, Clearbrook, Hope, Langley and Mission.

Region 7: **Prince Rupert/Bulkley Valley and North/South Peace River** (regional office in Prince George); district offices in Burns Lake, Cassiar, Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Fort Nelson, Fort St. John, Hazelton, Houston, Kitimat, Prince Rupert, Queen Charlotte City, Smithers and Terrace.

Region 8: **Victoria West** (regional office in Victoria); district offices in Cowichan, Duncan, Esquimalt, Langford, Sidney and Sooke.

Region 9: **Kamloops Mainline** (regional office in Kamloops); district offices in Ashcroft, Clearwater, Golden, Kamloops, Lillooet, Merritt, Princeton, Revelstoke, Salmon Arm and 100 Mile House.

Region 10: **Vancouver Island North** (regional office in Nanaimo); district offices in Campbell River, Courtenay, Nanaimo, Parksville, Port Alberni and Port Hardy.

Region 11: **Victoria East** (regional office in Victoria); district offices in Victoria and Saanich.

Region 12: **Fraser South and Vancouver West** (regional office in Vancouver); district offices in Delta, Richmond and Vancouver.

Region 13: **Fraser North** (regional office in New Westminister); district offices in Burnaby and New Westminster.

Region 14: **North Shore-Sunshine Coast** (regional office in North Vancouver); district offices in Bella Coola, North Vancouver, Powell River, Sechelt, Squamish and West Vancouver.

Region 16: **Vancouver South** (one regional and nine district offices).

Region 17: **Vancouver Downtown-Eastside** (one regional and 11 district offices).

Region 18: **Surrey** (regional office in Surrey); district offices in Cloverdale, Surrey, Whalley and White Rock.

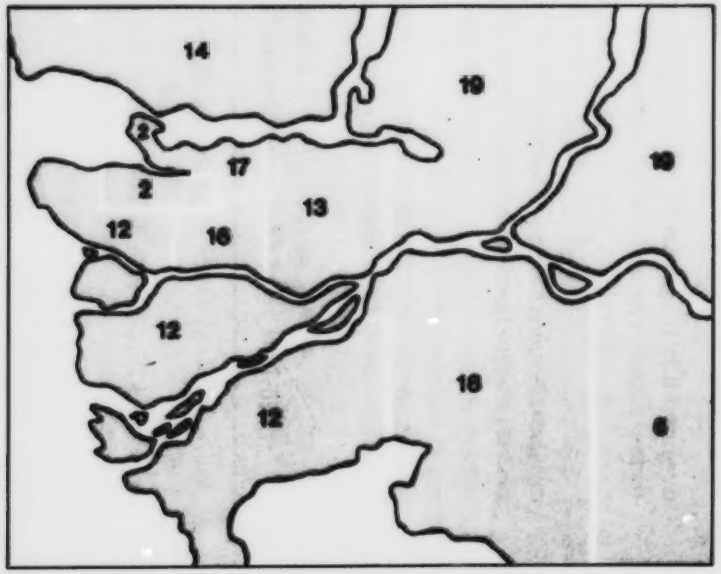
Region 19: **Coquitlam-Maple Ridge** (regional office in Coquitlam); district offices in Coquitlam, Maple Ridge, Port Coquitlam and Port Moody.

In addition to district offices, each region may have one or more specialized offices for administering support services such as child day care, foster home recruitment and child care resource placement services.

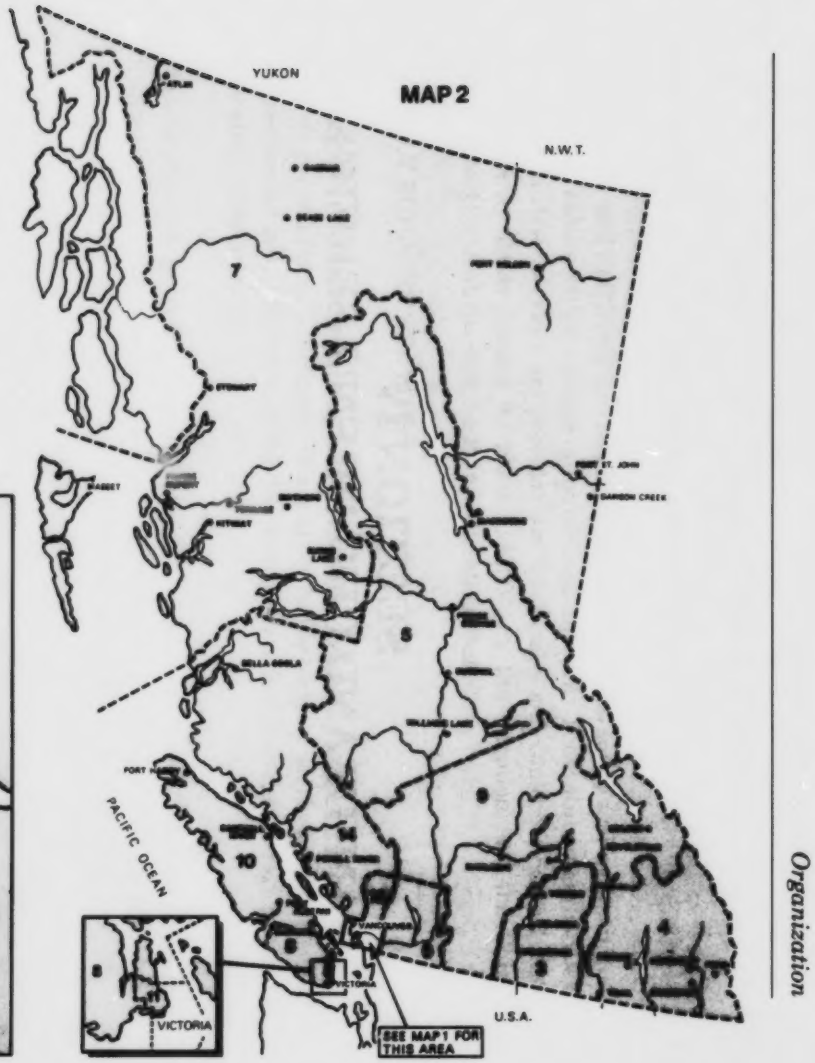
Ministry of Social Services and Housing Regional Map

2 - Vancouver Burrard	10 - Vancouver Island North
3 - Okanagan	11 - Victoria East
4 - Kootenays	12 - Fraser South and Vancouver West
5 - Prince George-Cariboo	13 - Fraser North
6 - Fraser Valley	14 - North Shore-Sunshine Coast
7 - Prince Rupert-Bulkley Valley and North/South Peace River	16 - Vancouver South
8 - Victoria West	17 - Downtown Eastside
9 - Kamloops Mainline	18 - Surrey
	19 - Coquitlam-Maple Ridge

MAP 1



MAP 2



SECTION IV
FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

INTRODUCTION TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The Family and Children's Services Program addresses the safety and well-being of children and assists with the preservation of the family unit. The statutory authorities under which these services are provided are the Family and Child Service Act, the Guaranteed Available Income for Need (GAIN) Act, the Adoption Act, the Child Paternity and Support Act and the Family Relations Act.

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

The ministry provides services to eligible families who request assistance in carrying out their parental responsibilities. The goals of family support services are to enable children to remain within their own families and communities, and to encourage families to function independently.

Family support programs include Special Services to Children, Family Support Homemakers and Children's Rehabilitation Resources. These programs are provided under the statutory authority of the GAIN Act (section 2(1)).

Special Services to Children

The objective of this program is to support families in caring for children with exceptional physical, social or behavioral needs so that the children may remain in their own communities.

The services are provided by child care workers employed by private nonprofit societies or private companies under contract with the ministry. Counselling and support services are provided to assist the family in resolving difficulties.

The total expenditure for this program in 1987-88 was $8,293,870. Approximately 1,747 children and families received these services each month in 1987-88.

Table 3
Special Services to Children, Expenditures, 1983-84 to 1987-88

Year	Expenditure
1987-88	$8,293,870
1986-87	6,730,131
1985-86	7,102,194
1984-85	6,370,362
1983-84	6,437,266

Table 4
Special Services to Children, Activities, 1983-84 to 1987-88

	1987-88	1986-87	1985-86	1984-85	1983-84
Number of Societies/ Agencies on Contract	82	78*	84	83	82
Estimated Number of Children/ Families Served per Month	1,747	1,324	1,330	1,397	1,416
Average Cost per Hour of Service	$13.89	$13.72	$13.02	$12.13	$12.00
Estimated Average Monthly Cost per Child/Family	$396	$424	$445	$380	$379

*Includes two independent caregivers.

Family Support Homemakers

The objective of this service is to promote and restore the ability of individuals and families to function independently in the community. Service is provided to mentally handicapped adults, parents of handicapped children and for child protection purposes. Homemakers assist with household management and child care.

The ministry purchases homemaker services from both proprietary agencies and nonprofit societies at a rate set by the Ministry of Health. Families contribute to the cost of the service according to their income.

Total expenditures for the Family Support Homemaker Program were $4,622,106 in 1987-88.

Table 5
Family Support Homemakers, Expenditures, 1983-84 to 1987-88

Year	Expenditure
1987-88	$4,622,106
1986-87	3,958,010
1985-86	3,978,294
1984-85	3,665,092
1983-84	4,043,765 *

* Includes salaries paid to employees in government-operated resources.

Table 6
Family Support Homemakers, Activities, 1983-84 to 1987-88

	1987-88	1986-87	1985-86	1984-85	1983-84
Number of Nonprofit Societies from which services were purchased	87	88	88	86 *	90
Number of Proprietary Agencies from which Services were purchased	13	13 **	23	17	15
Estimated Number of Families/ Individuals Served per Month	1,167	1,123	1,145	1,093	1,264

* Several agencies in the City of Vancouver were amalgamated in 1984-85, for a net reduction of four.

** The number of proprietary agencies includes four independent caregivers.

Children's Rehabilitation Resources

Children's Rehabilitation Resources are special programs which operate within the school setting. These programs help young people who are experiencing great difficulty at school or who have dropped out of school for social or emotional reasons. They are designed to help these young people acquire basic skills which will enable them to re-enter the regular school system or proceed to further training or employment.

The programs are jointly funded by the Ministry of Social Services and Housing, the Ministry of Education and local school districts. The Ministry of Social Services and Housing purchases the services of child care workers, who assist with behavior management and provide counselling to students and their families. The Ministry of Social Services and Housing also provides some funding for program expenses, while the Ministry of Education and local school districts provide facilities and teaching staff.

Admission to these programs is through a local program advisory committee with representation from the school district, the Ministry of Social Services and Housing, the contracting agency and, if appropriate, probation and health personnel. Children are assigned to Rehabilitation Resources programs for a maximum of one school term at a time.

This program is available in most school districts in the province. In 1987-88, there were 115 programs, employing approximately 230 child care workers for approximately 5,121 children. Total expenditures for this program in 1987-88 were $5,287,226.

Table 7
Rehabilitation Resources, Expenditures, 1983-84 to 1987-88

Year	Expenditure
1987-88	$5,287,226
1986-87	4,900,896
1985-86	4,869,067
1984-85	4,694,682
1983-84	4,712,683 *

* Includes salaries paid to employees in government-operated resources.

Table 8
Rehabilitation Resources, Activities, 1984-85 to 1987-88

	1987-88	1986-87	1985-86	1984-85
Number of Contracted Programs	115	123	127	139
Estimated Number of Children Served per School Year	5,121	3,667	3,606	3,493
Number of Child Care Workers	230	226	235	228

CHILD CARE SERVICES

Child Protection Services

Protective services are provided under the Family and Child Service Act.

The Inter-Ministry Child Abuse Handbook ensures co-operative planning in response to reports of child abuse. Inter-ministry protocols for child abuse reports and investigations are being refined and will be incorporated in a future revision of the handbook.

The demonstration project involving the Ministry of Social Services and Housing, the federal Department of Indian and Northern Affairs and the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council in the development of a child welfare service delivery system on Nuu-chah-nulth reserve lands has made substantial progress. The ministry has also established child welfare programs with the Carrier-Sekani Tribal Council and the McLeod Lake Band.

The Helpline for Children continues to be an important link in the ministry's child protection services. The purpose of the Helpline is to ensure that children who are abused or neglected, or adults who believe that children are being abused or neglected, can call for help 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by calling Zenith 1234. The reporting of suspected child abuse is a requirement of the Family and Child Service Act.

Table 9
Child Protection Investigations, By Reason, During Fiscal Year 1987-88

Reason	Number
Physical Abuse	4,728
Sexual Abuse	5,257
Neglect	7,298
Emotional	857
Other	5,158
Multiple	2,985
TOTAL	26,283

Reconnect

Reconnect is a program for street kids. The goals of the program are to help those who are on the street to leave it for a healthier and safer lifestyle and to prevent other young people from becoming street kids.

Street kids are young people under 19 who live on city streets and have little or no connection with their families. They are often involved in street related activities such as prostitution, drug and alcohol abuse and street crime. The constant struggle for survival puts them at risk of being victimized. More time on the street increases the risk, the alienation and the difficulty youths have in using community resources, or in reconnecting with their families.

Reconnect is an integrated response. It is supported by community, municipal and provincial government agencies. As well as providing service, it will assist with the coordination of social services to avoid duplication and ensure that each young person receives appropriate services. Street kids are referred to the program by the police, probation officers, street workers and others.

Integrating street kids back into the community requires a high level of inter-agency cooperation and good case management. That is the objective of the Reconnect Program.

Child Paternity and Support Services

Under the terms of the Child Paternity and Support Act, the Superintendent of Family and Child Service provides assistance to the mothers of children born out of wedlock. The Child Paternity and Support Program helps unmarried mothers obtain support for their children from the natural fathers and offers counselling to both parents.

Under the program, legal counsel is provided, when necessary, to represent the mother when negotiating an ongoing maintenance agreement, a final lump sum agreement, or a maintenance order when court action is required. If court ordered maintenance payments fall in arrears, legal counsel may be provided to the mother to assist in enforcing the original maintenance order.

Total receipts obtained from fathers under the provisions of the Child Paternity and Support Act between April 1, 1987 and March 31, 1988 amounted to $813,672.

SERVICES FOR CHILDREN-IN-CARE

Children enter the care of the Superintendent of Family and Child Service under the mandate of the Family and Child Service Act. They come into care either at the request of the parents through custody agreements or through a court committal when there are protection concerns. Children also come into care through the Family Relations Act (section 29) when orphaned or through the Adoption Act when relinquished at birth by parents.

The primary objective is to reunite the child with the family. When this is not possible, every effort is made to find an adoptive home which best meets the specific needs of the child. Services are provided under the Family and Child Service Act and the GAIN Act.

During 1987-88, 5,662 children were admitted to care, while for the same period, 6,052 children were discharged. For the fiscal year, 12,511 children received care. At March 31, 1988, the child-in-care caseload was 6,459.

Table 10
Number of Children Admitted to Care, by Reason of Admission, During Fiscal Year 1987-88

Reason	Number
SHORT-TERM CARE REQUIRED	
Parental Mental or Emotional Condition	761
Parental Physical Illness	224
Marital Conflict	52
Parent-Child Conflict	1,125
Awaiting Adoption Placement	54
SPECIAL CARE REQUIRED	
Child's Mental or Emotional Condition	196
Child's Physical Handicap	40
Child's Mental Handicap	25
Child's Emotional Disorder	74
PROTECTION REQUIRED	
Physical Abuse	533
Sexual Abuse	280
Abandonment	263
Death of Caregiver (Guardianship Unclear)	21
Absence of Parent(s)	458
Disability of Parent(s)	604
Neglect of Parent(s)	527
Deprivation of Necessary Medical Care	26
Absent from Home and Endangered	271
OTHER	
Death of Guardian(s)	68
Transfer of Guardianship or Custody	0
Relinquished for Adoption	19
Request by Other Province or Country	41
TOTAL	5,662

Table 11
Number of Children Admitted to Care, by Legal Status, During Fiscal Year 1987-88

Legal Status	Number of Children
Family and Child Service (F&CS) Act Agreements	2,533
Before Court (F&CS Act)	2,995
Temporary Wards (F&CS Act)	0
Permanent Wards (F&CS Act)	0
Family Relations Act (FRA) and Other Wards	78
Adoption Act Wards	17
Wards of Other Jurisdictions	39
TOTAL	5,662

Table 12
Number of Children-In-Care, During and at End of Fiscal Years, 1983-84 to 1987-88

	Number of Children	
Year	During Year	On March 31
1987-88	12,511	6,459
1986-87	12,849	6,832
1985-86	13,177	7,204
1984-85	13,407	7,535
1983-84	13,233	7,688

Table 13
Number of Children-In-Care, by Age and Legal Status, as of March 31, 1988

Status	Under 3	3-5	6-11	12-15	16-18	Total
Agreements	73	60	176	428	353	1,090
F&CS* Act (Before Court)	133	91	162	156	71	613
F&CS* Act (Temporary Wards)	137	106	216	301	233	993
F&CS* Act (Permanent Wards)	107	141	476	864	1,494	3,082
FRA** and Other Wards	6	9	61	136	235	447
Adoption Wards	105	26	14	9	6	160
Other Jurisdiction Wards	1	1	14	29	29	74
TOTAL	562	434	1,119	1,923	2,421	6,459

* Family and Child Service Act ** Family Relations Act

Table 14
Number of Children-In-Care and Legal Status, by Region, as of March 31, 1988

	Short-Term Agreements	Agreements	Before Court	Temporary Wards	Permanent Wards	FRA* & Other Wards	Adoption Wards	Other Jurisdiction Wards	TOTAL
Region 2	12	15	49	68	185	9	3	-	341
Region 3	23	75	45	44	162	24	12	12	397
Region 4	20	9	27	45	107	11	7	5	231
Region 5	28	31	65	76	197	47	19	4	467
Region 6	38	26	27	64	234	21	14	9	433
Region 7	10	27	54	84	178	88	11	2	454
Region 8	22	53	33	32	201	24	4	4	373
Region 9	35	63	28	60	205	26	8	6	431
Region 10	33	49	46	83	232	45	8	4	500
Region 11	31	28	26	36	130	16	5	4	276
Region 12	33	58	24	62	199	20	14	4	414
Region 13	26	48	42	56	178	19	10	1	380
Region 14	35	52	21	56	114	22	7	4	311
Region 16	18	34	20	61	138	8	3	1	283
Region 17	22	11	39	39	135	11	8	4	269
Region 18	41	46	40	67	236	13	15	6	464
Region 19	16	22	26	54	158	12	11	4	303
Wards Supervised by Other Jurisdictions	-	-	1	6	93	31	1	-	132
TOTAL	443	647	613	993	3,082	447	160	74	6,459

* Family Relations Act

Table 15
Number of Children-In-Care, by Type of Care, as of March 31, 1988

Type of Care	Number of Children
Foster Home	3,114
Independent Living	424
Parents Home	266
Free Home	193
Adoption Home	324
Runaways	230
Subsidized Resource	1,762
Special Resource	146
TOTAL	6,459

Table 16
Number of Children Discharged from Care of Superintendent of Family and Child Service, by Legal Status, During Fiscal Year 1987-88

Legal Status	Number of Children
F&CS* Act Agreements	2,347
Before the Court, F&CS* Act	1,068
Temporary Wards	823
Permanent Wards	815
Family Relations Act Wards and Others	175
Adoption Act Wards	90
Other Jurisdiction Wards	41
Supervision Orders	693
TOTAL	6,052

* Family and Child Service Act

Table 17
Number and Reasons for Discharge of Children-In-Care, During Fiscal Year 1987-88

Reason	Number
Reached Age of Majority	782
Married	2
Deceased	17
Adoption Completed	262
Repatriated	145
Requested Order Refused	106
Withdrawn from Court	274
Agreement Automatically Terminated	252
Guardianship Transferred	291
Returned to Other Jurisdiction	28
Intermittent Care Agreement Ended	46
Parent(s) Condition Improved	1,203
Family Situation Improved	1,172
Care Required by Child Completed	804
Termination of Supervision Order*	663
TOTAL	6,052

* Children who are returned home under a Supervision Order are not discharged until the expiration of the Supervision Order.

Foster Care

The primary objective of foster care is to provide good substitute parenting for children who are temporarily unable to live with their own families. The statutory authority for provision of the program is the Family and Child Service Act and the GAIN Act.

Foster care is available in all communities throughout British Columbia for children-in-care up to age 19. Foster parents are thoroughly screened and approved by the ministry before children are placed with them. At fiscal year end, 48 per cent of all children in the care and custody of the Superintendent of Family and Child Service were being cared for in foster homes.

The ministry supports foster homes through its funding of training programs for many foster parent regional councils and through funding of the British Columbia Federation of Foster Parent Associations.

The program expenditure for 1987-88 was $25,771,255.

Table 18
Foster Care and Child-In-Care, Expenditures, 1983-84 to 1987-88

Year	Expenditure
1987-88	$25,771,255
1986-87	25,162,035
1985-86	25,010,156
1984-85	23,006,269
1983-84	21,693,758

Table 19
Basic Monthly Foster Care Maintenance Rates, Effective January 1, 1988

Age of Child	Maintenance	Clothing	Total	Per Diem
0 - 5 years	$207.59	$37.97	$245.56	$8.19
6 - 9 years	217.13	39.74	256.87	8.56
10 - 11 years	244.12	46.96	291.08	9.70
12 - 13 years	278.32	47.61	325.93	10.86
14 - 19 years	305.25	56.64	361.89	12.06

Contracted Child Care Resources

The ministry contracts with a number of different types of child care resources for children with special needs who cannot be cared for in foster homes. The statutory mandate for these programs is the Family and Child Service Act (section 16(1)) and the GAIN Act (section 1(c) and 5).

The range of contracted residential care extends from skilled family care (special care homes) for one or two children to specialized treatment in a residential facility for groups of children. Care and treatment goals are defined for all children placed in child care resources to ensure that they are returned home as soon as possible or, if these children cannot return to their families or relatives, prepared for permanent placement in an adoption home. It is the responsibility of each region to contract for its own child care resources. Regions have developed the following resources to meet children's needs:

Table 20
Number of Child Care Resources, 1983-84 to 1987-88

	1987-88	1986-87	1985-86	1984-85	1983-84
Respite Homes	70	48	42	41	37
Receiving, Assessment and Bed Subsidy Homes	99	91	82	89	73
Group Homes:					
Mentally or physically handicapped	10	8	10	13	12
Behaviorally or emotionally disturbed	96	88	99	111	120
Special Care Homes:					
Mentally or physically handicapped	220	223	196	188	153
Behaviorally or emotionally disturbed	287	232	209	188	178
Specialized Resources:					
Mentally or physically handicapped	29	29	28	32	25
Behaviorally or emotionally disturbed	51	44	46	40	40
Non-Residential Resources	79	45	37	45	41
Intensive Child Care Resources	26	19	23	24	21
TOTAL	967	827	772	771	700

Respite Resources

In 1987-88, 70 respite homes offered temporary relief to parents caring for handicapped children.

Receiving and Assessment Resources and Bed Subsidy Homes

These regional resources provide bed space for two to six children who require emergency placement. Often when a child first comes into care, short-term emergency care is needed to assess and develop appropriate plans for the child before placement in a foster or other residential care home. The ministry funded 99 receiving and assessment resources and bed subsidy homes in 1987-88.

Group Homes

Group homes operate on either a houseparent or staff model and serve three to eight children. There were 106 group homes providing 24-hour care to children during 1987-88. Group homes may be contracted to provide other services, where appropriate, such as family counselling.

Special Care Homes

Special care homes provide individualized care for one to two severely handicapped or

disturbed children in a family setting, rather than in a staffed facility. There were 507 special care homes throughout the province in 1987-88 and 220 of these provided care to handicapped children.

Specialized Residential Resources

These staffed resources, normally society-sponsored, offer a variety of programs for emotionally disturbed or handicapped children who require specialized services. The programs range from training homes for autistic children to resources for adolescents. In 1987-88, the ministry contracted with 80 specialized resources, with a capacity to serve 494 children.

Specialized Non-Residential Resources

These resources offer day programs and outreach services to children and their families where 24-hour care is not required. The services provided include assessment, counselling, family support, work-readiness preparation, work activity and life-skill programs. In 1987-88, 79 non-residential programs were funded.

Intensive Child Care Resources (ICCR)

For severely disturbed children in the province who are not able to benefit from any other services or resources provided through the Ministries of Attorney General, Social Services and Housing, Education, and Health, an inter-ministry approach involving intensive services to stabilize the child can be arranged. The Ministry of Social Services and Housing participates in the co-ordination of inter-ministry case planning and, where it is necessary, provides the residential component of the service to the child.

During 1987-88, a total of $62,813,501 was spent on child care resources. The increase in expenditures over the previous year was due to the development of more resources to serve children and teens with behavior problems. The contracted child care resource program can offer skilled child care to meet individual behavioral needs.

Table 21
Child Care Resources, Expenditures, 1983-84 to 1987-88

Year	Expenditures
1987-88	$62,813,501
1986-87	55,729,610
1985-86	54,167,008
1984-85	52,575,796
1983-84	49,724,126

ADOPTION SERVICES

The ministry's adoption program operates under the statutory authority of the Adoption Act. Ministry staff are involved in different areas of adoptions, including ministry adoptions, non-ministry adoptions, international adoptions and post-adoption services.

In all adoptions, the objective is to provide permanent homes for children whose parents are unable to care for them. In ministry adoptions, ministry staff place children with families who have been approved for the placement of a child. These children have been voluntarily given up at birth for adoption placement, or have come into the permanent care of the Superintendent of Family and Child Service through the courts. A central registry of approved families is maintained in Victoria and children available for adoption are placed with selected applicants. Children are also featured in the ministry's bi-monthly Adoption Bulletin, and in a column in the Vancouver Sun entitled "Tuesday's Child." These methods are effective in recruiting families for children where no approved families are available in the registry. In 1987-88, the ministry placed 150 healthy infants for adoption and 202 children with special needs, for a total of 352. There continues to be a need for families who can accept a child or children who are developmentally delayed, mentally handicapped, or are part of a sibling group of three or more.

Non-ministry adoptions are those in which the placement of a child is arranged privately, or with relatives. In 1987-88, 155 private adoptions were finalized. In all private adoptions, the court requires the superintendent to submit a report on the circumstances of the placement and to make a recommendation regarding the granting of an adoption order. In adoptions by step-parents and relatives, the superintendent becomes involved only when requested by the court. Information for the superintendent's report is obtained through a post-placement inquiry conducted by ministry staff.

As the number of infants available for adoption continues to decline, more individuals become interested in adopting internationally. The ministry's role in international adoptions is to facilitate such placements with the assistance of the National Adoption Desk in Ottawa. Last year, there were 35 children from other countries adopted in British Columbia.

Post-adoption services are provided to adoptees and adopting parents after an adoption has been legalized. Ministry staff provide adoptees who wish to learn more about their background with non-identifying medical and background information upon request.

At fiscal year end, there were over 2,881 adoption applications on file.

Table 22

Number of Children Placed for Adoption by the Ministry of Social Services and Housing, 1983-84 to 1987-88

Category	1987-88	1986-87	1985-86	1984-85	1983-84
Children placed from:					
- within B.C.					
- in B.C.	307	381	342	388	417
- to other provinces	9	4	7	2	1
- to other countries	-	1	-	-	-
- other provinces into B.C.	1	2	1	2	5
- other countries into B.C.	35	35	57	36	33
TOTAL CHILDREN PLACED	352	423	407	428	456

Table 23

Number of Adoption Placements Made by the Ministry of Social Services and Housing, by Type of Placement, 1983-84 to 1987-88

Type of Placement	1987-88	1986-87	1985-86	1984-85	1983-84
Hospital to Adoption Home	72	75	92	117	150
Foster Home to Adoption Home	182	239	190	243	248
Foster Home Changed to Adoption Home	63	73	68	68	58
International	35	36	57	-	-
TOTAL	352	423	407	428	456

Table 24

Number of Children Placed for Adoption, by the Ministry of Social Services and Housing, by Category, 1983-84 to 1987-88

Category	1987-88	1986-87	1985-86	1984-85	1983-84
Healthy infants	150	183	116	147	192
Children with special needs	202	240	291	281	264
TOTAL	352	423	407	428	456

Table 25
Number of Children Placed for Adoption by the Ministry of Social Services and Housing, by Age, 1983-84 to 1987-88

Age	1987-88	1986-87	1985-86	1984-85	1983-84
0 - 23 months	182	217	229	263	300
2 - 5 years	86	117	88	93	86
6 - 12 years	67	76	77	59	58
13 years and over	17	13	13	13	12
TOTAL	352	423	407	428	456

Table 26
Adoption Reports Submitted to the Supreme Court, 1983-84 to 1987-88

Type	1987-88	1986-87	1985-86	1984-85	1983-84
Stepparent	6	3	3	6	6
Relative	-	2	3	2	1
Private	155	119	119	105	91
TOTAL	161	124	125	113	98

Table 27
Approved Adoption Homes, by Type of Child Requested, March 31, 1984 to 1988

Category	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984
Healthy infants	36	59	50	193	220
Healthy infants or children with special needs	319	308	259	199	191
Children with special needs	81	85	242	314	320
TOTAL	436	452	551	706	731

Table 28
Post-Adoption Services, by Applicant, 1983-84 to 1987-88

Applicant	1987-88	1986-87	1985-86	1984-85	1983-84
Adoptee	514	550	552	462	331
Birth Parent	232	232	218	242	131
Adopting Parent	114	129	145	159	80
Professional	134	45	125	181	340
Others	113	141	65	39	29
TOTAL	1,107	1,097	1,105	1,083	911

INSPECTION AND STANDARDS UNIT

The Inspection and Standards Unit has been in operation since March, 1986. The Superintendent of Family and Child Service directs the unit in its main function of monitoring and reporting on standards of practice in child welfare services.

The Inspection and Standards Unit has established standards of practice and rules of conduct for use in pro-active audits of selected cases. These standards are used in regular district office audits carried out in conjunction with field staff. The audits enable the superintendent and field staff to assess how effectively the mandate and programs designated by the Family and Child Service Act are being carried out. The overall goal is the continued improvement of services to families and children.

The inspectors conduct case reviews and inquiries on behalf of the superintendent in response to allegations of poor case practice or improper staff conduct. The scope of these activities encompasses all of the services related to the Family and Children's Services Division.

During the 1987-88 fiscal year, the Inspection and Standards Unit completed pro-active audits in 13 district offices, and completed 81 reviews and inquiries on behalf of the superintendent. In addition, the unit reviewed 35 critical incident reports concerning children-in-care, sent directly from field staff.

SECTION V
REHABILITATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES

REHABILITATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES

INTRODUCTION TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Rehabilitation and Support Services Division programs are provided under the authority of the Guaranteed Available Income for Need (GAIN) Act. The division's objective is to develop methods which will assist individuals or families to increase their potential and become as independent as possible.

Rehabilitation and Support Services programs include: employment initiatives for the handicapped; child day care; infant development; special needs day care; training and support services, including achievement centres, self-help skills and supported work; community projects funding; professional support services; residential services for the mentally handicapped, including community residential care and institutional care; and the senior citizen counsellors program, which is reported under the Services to Seniors section of this report.

REHABILITATION THROUGH EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVES

Employment Initiatives for the Handicapped

The objective of the Employment Initiatives for the Handicapped Program is to provide recipients of GAIN for Handicapped benefits with increased opportunity for employment or social contact. This program operates under the GAIN Act (section 2) and GAIN Regulations (section 15.1).

The program is provided for clients who would benefit from social contact or clients who require work experience in the community to upgrade their work skills. Monthly allowances of up to $50 for single participants or $100 for participating couples may be provided to cover program-related expenses.

The number of clients participating in the program has declined since 1984-85, as the clients moved from the Employment Initiatives for the Handicapped Program into the Supported Work Placements Program. A total of 629 clients participated in the Employment Initiatives for the Handicapped Program in 1987-88. Expenditures for 1987-88 were $166,086.

Table 29
Employment Initiatives for the Handicapped, Expenditures, 1984-85 to 1987-88

Year	Expenditure
1987-88	$166,086
1986-87	189,358
1985-86	340,370
1984-85	243,108

Work Activity

Work Activity projects enhance opportunities to obtain employment for income assistance recipients who have special needs and who are not able to benefit from other available training programs. These projects operate under the GAIN Act (section 10) and GAIN Regulations (section 16(1)).

Work Activity projects combine life-skills training, educational upgrading, counselling and work experience into intensive employment preparation programs.

A total of 142 clients participated in Work Activity projects in 1987-88. Expenditures in 1987-88 were $293,430.

Table 30
Work Activity, Expenditures, 1983-84 to 1987-88

Year	Expenditure
1987-88	$293,430 *
1986-87	652,615
1985-86	651,370
1984-85	637,121
1983-84	611,735

* 1987-88 expenditures were reduced as a result of two Work Activity projects transferred to the Ministry of Health.

Youth Incentive

The Youth Incentive Program provides children-in-care aged 15 to 18 years, who lack self-confidence, motivation, or good work habits with an opportunity to enhance their employment-related skills and improve their self-concept. This program operates under the statutory authority of the GAIN Act (section 2).

Participants are provided with a monthly allowance of $50 to cover program-related expenses for 25 hours of volunteer work. Placements may be made in nonprofit agencies and organizations or private sector businesses for up to six months.

Expenditures for Youth Incentive in 1987-88 were $7,624.

Table 31
Youth Incentive Program, Expenditures, 1983-84 to 1987-88

Year	Expenditure
1987-88	$7,624 *
1986-87	19,312
1985-86	43,449
1984-85	45,591
1983-84	43,699
1982-83	42,923

* 1987-88 expenditures were reduced as the program is now only available to children-in-care. Youth receiving income assistance or who are dependents of income assistance recipients may now participate in the Incentive Allowance for Employment Program.

CHILD DAY CARE

The ministry participates in child day care through the parental subsidy program, day care support programs, day care grants and the special needs day care program. The statutory authority for this participation is the GAIN Act (sections 2, 5 and 22) and GAIN Regulations (sections 4(1), 28 and schedules D and E).

Day Care Subsidy Program

The objective of the Child Day Care Subsidy Program is to assist eligible families to meet day care costs for children up to and including age 12. The program is a support service to families, enabling parents to prepare for or maintain employment and financial independence. It also provides relief to families during prolonged illness or other family crisis. Eligibility for assistance with the cost of fees is based on the number of people in the family and total net income. The family must also meet social needs criteria as outlined in the GAIN Regulations and Canada Assistance Plan. The ministry can assist families with services such as licensed and unlicensed family day care, group day care, in-own-home day care, nursery school, out-of-school day care and special needs day care.

The 1987-88 expenditure on subsidies was $28,935,749. An average of 3,748 half-time and 11,863 full-time subsidies were given each month.

Table 32
Child Day Care Subsidy, Expenditures, 1983-84 to 1987-88

Year	Expenditure
1987-88	$28,935,749
1986-87	21,772,586
1985-86	19,598,295
1984-85	18,665,316
1983-84	19,287,794

Table 33
Average Monthly Child Day Care Subsidy, Expenditures, by Type of Care, 1987-88

Type of Care	Average Monthly Cost per Child	Average Monthly Total Cost
Family Day Care	$ 155	$809,832
Group Day Care	236	826,657
In-Own-Home Day Care	111	342,004
Out-of-School Day Care	96	230,493
Nursery School	45	48,954
Special Needs Day Care	522	153,373
TOTAL		$2,411,313

Table 34
Average Monthly Number of Children Subsidized, by Type of Care, 1987-88

Type of Care	Half-Time	Full-Time
Family Day Care	402	4,827
Group Day Care	135	3,371
In-Own-Home Day Care	628	2,455
Out-of-School Day Care	1,396	1,017
Nursery School	1,086	-
Special Needs Day Care	101	193
TOTAL	3,748	11,863

Day Care Support Programs

The ministry funded six day care support programs during 1987-88. Four of these were family day care support programs located in Abbotsford, Mission, Kelowna and Nelson. Services included recruiting and training operators for family day care homes and monitoring their operation to enhance the quality and number of available homes. Two other programs assisted in the co-ordination of day care services at the University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University. During 1987-88, ministry funding for these six programs totalled $199,119.

Special Needs Day Care

The objective of the Special Needs Day Care Program is to help children with special needs participate in day care programs by providing extra supports which address the specific needs of each child. These programs offer specialized care, activities and supervision designed to assist the children to attain maximum social, emotional, physical and intellectual growth.

In 1987-88, the ministry contracted with a number of nonprofit societies to provide 87 programs offering 1,301 specialized day care spaces in either specialized or integrated day care centres. Ministry expenditures on contracts totalled $7,167,118. The ministry paid the full cost for children in these specialized resources. In addition, the ministry provided full or partial subsidies for an average of 294 special needs children in family day care homes, group day care centres or nursery schools each month.

Day Care Program Initiatives

During 1987-88, the ministry helped to preserve 2,060 day care spaces by providing emergency repair and relocation grants to nonprofit societies. These grants totalled $221,640.

In May 1987, the maximum subsidy rates payable for each type of day care were increased. In December 1987, the net income exemption levels for the income test were raised.

In December 1987, the federal government announced its National Strategy on Child Care. The federal package totals $6.4 billion over seven years and includes the following three components:

1. $4 billion to a new federal/provincial cost-sharing program which will replace the day care provisions of the Canada Assistance Plan. Cost-sharing will be available for capital grants to create new nonprofit day care spaces and for increased operating expenditures.

2. $100 million will be used to establish a federal Child Care Initiatives Fund for innovative research and development.

3. $2.3 billion will provide enhanced tax assistance to families with young children.

Since the announcement, British Columbia has been engaged in negotiations with the federal government in order to secure its fair share of the federal funds. Subject to the outcome of these negotiations, the province intends to participate in the federal initiative by establishing a capital grants program to create new nonprofit day care spaces and by enhancing the current day care subsidy program.

INFANT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Infant Development Program is funded under the statutory authority of the GAIN Act (section 2). This program's objective is to optimize the development of infants from newborn to three years of age who exhibit significant developmental delay as a result of mental or physical handicaps. The program helps parents to develop positive and realistic expectations of their child's abilities, and assists them to encourage and support the child's development.

Services provided by professionally trained infant development consultants through this home-based program include supplying information and support to parents, designing individualized learning and activity programs for parents to implement, conducting specific development tests and lending relevant books, toys and other resource materials to parents. The ministry also appoints members to sit on the provincial steering committee which acts in an advisory capacity to the ministry and makes recommendations on program guidelines.

The ministry funded 33 infant development programs in 1987-88. Three new programs were started during this fiscal year in Dawson Creek, Sechelt and Nanaimo. Approximately 2,400 infants received services during 1987-88 and total expenditures were $1,962,913.

Table 35
Infant Development, Expenditures, 1983-84 to 1987-88

Year	Expenditure
1987-88	$1,962,913
1986-87	1,583,455
1985-86	1,492,667
1984-85	1,474,112
1983-84	1,466,717

Table 36
Number of Children Served and Number of Infant Development Workers, 1983-84 to 1987-88

Year	Approximate Number of Children Served*	Number of Infant Development Consultant Positions**
1987-88	2,400	51.85
1986-87	2,200	44.5
1985-86	2,195	43.42
1984-85	2,600	44.25
1983-84	2,498	44.25

* These statistics reflect the approximate number of children visited during a given year. Caseloads fluctuate as children are admitted or discharged.

** Several of the program consultants participate in job-sharing. There are actually 68 infant development consultants working in the province.

ACHIEVEMENT CENTRES FOR THE HANDICAPPED

The Achievement Centres Program is provided by authority of the GAIN Act (section 2) and GAIN Regulations (section 18). The program provides financial assistance to nonprofit societies which operate day programs designed to improve the personal, social or work-related skills of handicapped persons. The ministry pays achievement centre operators a subsidy based on the number of approved participant hours of each centre. During 1987-88 the subsidy was $1.32 per participant hour. An allowance is available to eligible handicapped individuals to assist with the transportation cost of attending achievement centres.

Expenditures on achievement centres in 1987-88 were $6,680,420.

Table 37
Achievement Centres, Expenditures (Subsidies, Travel, Capital Grants), 1983-84 to 1987-88

Year	Expenditure
1987-88	$ 6,680,420
1986-87	6,645,807
1985-86	6,618,414
1984-85	7,364,109
1983-84	7,315,864

Table 38
Achievement Centres, Service, 1983-84 to 1987-88

Year	Number of Centres	Approx. Number of Clients Per Month	Subsidy Rate Per Hour	Approx. Hours of Client Services
1987-88	61	2,862	$1.32	4,325,677
1986-87*	61	2,675	1.32	4,348,428
1985-86*	65	2,900	1.32	4,340,007
1984-85	78	5,000	1.26	5,109,635
1983-84	78	5,000	1.26	5,046,321

* Eighteen achievement centres were transferred to the Ministry of Health during 1985-86 (14) and 1986-87 (4).

SELF-HELP SKILLS PROGRAM

The Self-Help Skills Program for mentally handicapped adults is provided by authority of the GAIN Act (section 2). The program trains and supports mentally handicapped adults to enhance personal and social skills which increase functional competencies in everyday living.

Services are purchased by contract from nonprofit societies, private companies or individuals, and from community colleges. The services may be provided on a one-to-one basis or to a group, whichever is best suited to the needs of the handicapped individual. Expenditures in 1987-88 through the Self-Help Skills Program were $6,882,532, an increase of more than 37 per cent over the previous year. This program provided training and support services to approximately 2,000 clients during the year, including those persons placed in the community from Woodlands and Glendale.

Table 39
Self-Help Skills Program, Expenditures, Hours and Numbers Served, 1983-84 to 1987-88

Year	Expenditure	Approx. Hours of Client Services	Approx. Number of Clients Served
1987-88	$6,882,532	809,710	2,000
1986-87	5,020,522	661,000	1,500
1985-86	4,346,628	570,000	1,400
1984-85	3,673,609	305,471	1,100
1983-84	2,637,168	219,764	880

SUPPORTED WORK PROGRAM

The Supported Work Program is provided by the authority of the GAIN Act (section 2). This program was introduced in September 1987, to assist mentally handicapped adults to access and remain in work experience placements and employment. The 1987-88 budget for the program was $1,553,394, with approximately 350 participants.

Supported Work Placements combine work experience or employment with on site supervision and support for mentally handicapped adults who, because of their disabilities, need these services to perform their work. The program enables participants to access and compete for existing jobs but is not a job creation program. There are a variety of supported work placements such as work stations in industry, mobile work crews, work experience, etc.

Services are targeted at those mentally handicapped clients who are job ready, can participate in employment situations with minimal support and who will be able to work without additional support within an 18 month period.

Services may be provided to individual clients to groups of clients or to several clients in different work settings. Direct support services are expected to be gradually reduced as clients become more independent and productive.

PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

The Professional Support Services Program is provided by authority of the GAIN Act (section 2). The program assists contracted service providers, parents, and field staff in providing effective residential training and support programs for adults with mental handicaps living in the community. Services may include planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating programs and services directly related to community living.

Professional Support contracts may provide for very specific, time limited, one time only services or can be used to purchase ongoing services which will be directed at a number of service providers and families as required.

Services may be purchased by contract from individual professionals, nonprofit societies, proprietary businesses, and community colleges. Expenditures in 1987-88 were $1,659,181.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS FUNDING

The Community Projects Funding Program purchases services in the community from nonprofit societies. These services complement and support ministry statutory services. The Community Projects Funding Program operates under the GAIN Act (sections 2 and 5). Categories of projects which may be funded are family service projects, crisis centres,

youth projects, services to the disabled, volunteer bureaus and counselling/ information services to low income groups.

Regional offices of the ministry are responsible for the initial screening of new applications as well as monitoring established projects. In 1987-88, 15 new projects were funded, 15 existing projects were transferred to other ministries or other program areas within this ministry, and three projects closed or did not reapply for funds. A total of 157 community projects were funded through the program in 1987-88 and expenditures were $4,835,252.

The ministry continued to negotiate contracts for purchase of services from some societies which formerly received grants under the Community Projects Funding Program.

Table 40
Community Projects, Expenditures, 1983-84 to 1987-88

Year	Expenditure
1987-88	$4,835,252 **
1986-87	5,175,291 *
1985-86	5,161,998
1984-85	5,326,526
1983-84	6,004,385

* Five projects were transferred to other ministries or other program areas within this ministry.

** Sixteen projects were transferred to other ministries or other program areas within this ministry.

Table 41
Community Projects Funding for 1987-88

Location and Agency	Type of Service	Amount
ABBOTSFORD		
Matsqui-Abbotsford Community Services Society	Volunteer Services Family Service Project	$88,532
AGASSIZ		
Agassiz-Harrison Community Services Society	Volunteer Services	20,592
ARMSTRONG		
Armstrong-Spallumcheen Community Services Centre Association:		
Armstrong Community Service Centre	Volunteer Services	13,147
Family Centre	Family Service Project	9,075
Okanagan Shuswap Communities Against Sexual Abuse	Family Service Project	13,904
BURNABY		
Big Sisters of B.C. - Lower Mainland	Youth Project	15,851
Burnaby Family Life Institute	Family Service Project	15,746
Canadian Society for Information Children	Family Service Project	12,827
Citizen's Development Fund:		
Stride Avenue Community Youth Worker	Youth Project	15,207
Project Backdoor	Youth Project	97,800
Life Line Society	Family Service Project	57,390
CASTLEGAR		
Castlegar and District Community Centre Service Society	Family Service Project Youth Project	17,094

CHILLIWACK		
Chilliwack Community Services	Volunteer Services Family Service Project Crisis Centre	76,830
COQUITLAM		
Coquitlam SHARE Society	Low Income Groups	56,840
Greater Coquitlam Volunteer Bureau	Volunteer Services	16,892
COMOX		
Comox Valley Family Life Association	Youth Project	26,592
CRESTON		
Creston Citizen Advocacy Society	Services to the Handicapped	13,568
DAWSON CREEK		
Nawican Friendship Centre	Youth Project	29,319
DELTA		
Deltassist Society	Family Service Project Volunteer Services	78,502
DUNCAN		
Community Options Society	Family Service Project	25,020
Cowichan Family Life Association	Family Service Project	24,034
Cowichan Lake Community Services Society	Youth Project	22,239
Cowichan Valley Volunteer Society	Volunteer Services	22,755
FALKLAND		
Falkland and District Community Association	Youth Project	17,650
FORT NELSON		
Fort Nelson Liard Native Friendship Society	Youth Project	17,397
FORT ST. JOHN		
Fort St. John Friendship Society	Youth Project	22,314

North Peace Community Resources Society	Volunteer Services	28,192
GOLDEN		
Golden Community Resources Society	Volunteer Services	3,712
HAZELTON		
Gitksan Wet'Su wet'En Education Society	Youth Project	28,845
HOPE		
Hope Community Services Society	Volunteer Services	14,487
HOUSTON		
Houston Health Care Services Society	Family Service Project	21,085
KAMLOOPS		
Boys and Girls Club of Kamloops	Youth Project	41,808
KELOWNA		
Central Registry of Community Resources and Crisis Referral Society	Volunteer Services Crisis Centre	55,205
KITIMAT		
Kitimat Community Services Society	Volunteer Services	14,215
LANGLEY		
Langley Family Services Association	Family Service Project	38,682
MACKENZIE		
Mackenzie Counselling Services Society	Multi-Service Agency	17,286
MAPLE RIDGE		
Maple Ridge Family Education Centre:		
Family Education Centre	Family Service Project	31,460
Pregnant and Parenting Teens Project	Family Service Project	19,024
Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows Community Services Council:		
Family Resource Centre	Family Service Project	55,432
Volunteer Services	Volunteer Services	16,896
Youth Activity Centre	Youth Project	17,500

MISSION		
Mission Community Services Society	Crisis Centre Family Service Project Volunteer Services	50,109
NAKUSP		
Nakusp and District Community Services Association	Multi-Service Agency	10,956
NANAIMO		
Boys and Girls Club of Nanaimo	Youth Project	28,243
Nanaimo Association for Intervention Development	Crisis Centre	27,279
Nanaimo Citizen Advocacy Association	Services to the Handicapped	22,495
Nanaimo Family Life Association	Family Service Project	26,598
Nanaimo Volunteer and Information Centre Society	Volunteer Services	23,301
NELSON		
Nelson Community Services Centre	Multi-Service Agency Crisis Centre	95,550
NEW WESTMINSTER		
Family Services of Greater Vancouver:		
New Westminster Development Centre	Family Service Project Youth Project	12,000 44,329
Fraserside Community Services Society	Low Income Groups	46,000
Lower Mainland Community Housing Registry Society	Housing Information and Referral Service	8,000
Salvation Army	Low Income Groups	6,050
NORTH VANCOUVER		
Capilano Community Services Society	Multi-Service Agency	9,850
North Shore Association for Physically Handicapped	Youth Project	17,000

North Shore Counselling Centre Society	Volunteer Services	17,460
North Shore Family Services Society	Family Service Project	28,912
North Shore Neighbourhood House	Family Service Project	26,332
North Shore Co-operative Projects Society for the Low Income and Handicapped	Services to the Handicapped Low Income Groups	21,685
Queen Mary Community School	Youth Project	6,620
PARKSVILLE		
District 69 Society of Organized Services	Family Service Project	17,159
PENTICTON		
Penticton and District Community Resources Society:		
Community Services Office	Information and Referral Service	28,726
	Volunteer Services	
Third Place Family Centre	Family Service Project	46,210
PORT ALBERNI		
Alberni Valley Citizen Advocacy Society	Services to the Handicapped	21,928
Port Alberni Family Guidance Association:		
Family Guidance	Family Service Project	16,412
Youth Worker	Youth Project	19,953
Port Alberni and Area Volunteer Society	Volunteer Services	23,742
PORT COQUITLAM		
Port Coquitlam Area Women's Centre Society:		
Women's Centre	Family Service Project	12,286
Support Group for Young Mothers	Family Service Project	5,994
PROVINCE WIDE		
B.C. Association of Volunteer Centres	Volunteer Services	2,913
B.C. Parents in Crisis Society	Family Service Project	95,692

B.C.H.M.C.	Housing Information and Referral Service	828
B.C.M.H.P.	Services to the Handicapped	12,733
Canadian Paraplegic Association	Services to the Handicapped	249,084
Canadian Wheelchair Sports Association B.C. Division	Services to the Handicapped	16,709
Information Services Vancouver:		
Information Day Care	Information and Referral Service	11,600
Kaiser Substance Abuse Foundation	Miscellaneous	25,000
Pacific Association for Autistic Citizens:		
Autism Support Services Project	Services to the Handicapped	62,488
Life Plan Services	Services to the Handicapped	21,252
United Way of the Lower Mainland	Miscellaneous	2,000
Vancouver Home Sharers Society	Housing Information and Referral Service	10,000
QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLANDS		
Queen Charlotte Islands Health and Human Resources	Youth Project	15,714
RICHMOND		
CHIMO Personal Distress Intervention Services in Richmond	Crisis Centre	63,156
Family Services of Greater Vancouver, Richmond Branch	Family Service Project	13,881
Richmond Family Place Society:		
Single Mother's Housing Network	Family Service Project	14,860
Playroom Supervisor	Family Service Project	21,070
Richmond Volunteer Centre Society	Volunteer Services	3,190
Richmond Youth Services Agency	Youth Services	34,666

SALMON ARM		
Shuswap Youth Centre Association	Youth Project	19,524
SALTSPRING ISLAND		
Saltspring Island Community Society	Family Service Project	38,285
SECHELT		
Sunshine Coast Community Services Society:		
Volunteer Action Centre	Volunteer Services	32,812
Parent-Tot Drop-In	Family Service Project	7,500
SMITHERS		
Smithers Community Services Association:		
Mothers Time Off	Family Service Project	30,571
Youth Centre	Youth Project	54,292
Volunteer Bureau	Volunteer Services	12,232
SOOKE		
Edward Milne Community School Society	Youth Project	4,300
SURREY		
Surrey Co-ordinating Centre:		
Family Development Program	Family Service Project	41,402
Guildford Family Program	Family Service Project	33,857
Mayfair Family Program	Family Service Project	33,857
Volunteer Program	Volunteer Services	21,282
YM-YWCA of Surrey	Youth Project	39,178
TERRACE		
Terrace and District Community Services Society	Family Service Project	29,266
VANCOUVER		
Association of Neighbourhood Houses:		
Kitsilano Neighbourhood House Family Focus	Family Service Project	4,862
Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House Family and Children's Worker	Family Service Project	31,591
People Place	Multi Services	27,957
South Vancouver Neighbourhood House	Family Service Project	28,613
South Vancouver, Outreach Service for Native Indians	Youth Project	43,960
Big Brothers of Greater Vancouver	Youth Project	37,426

Big Sisters of B.C. Lower Mainland	Youth Project	25,197
Canadian Red Cross Society	Family Service Project	26,800
Catholic Community Services	Family Service Project	65,926
Credit Union Pacific (CUPAC) Services Society	Low Income Groups	36,000
Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention Centre of Greater Vancouver	Crisis Centre	29,403
Douglas Park Community Centre Association	Services to the Handicapped	4,451
Downtown Eastside Economic Development Society	Low Income Group	8,900
Dunbar Community Association	Youth Project	8,814
Family Service of Greater Vancouver	Youth Project	47,282
Franklin Community School Association	Youth Project	20,000
Indian Homemaker's Assocation of British Columbia	Family Service Project	62,532
Information Services Vancouver Society	Information and Referral Service	36,227
John Howard Society	Family Service Project	70,076
Kiwassa Neighbourhood Services Association	Services to the Handicapped	31,963
Little Mountain Neighbourhood House Society	Family Service Project	7,789
Living is for Everyone Society	Family Service Project	6,846
Marpole/Oakridge Area Council Society	Family Service Project	20,295
Mount Pleasant Family Centre Society	Family Service Project	71,019

Multilingual Orientation Services Association for Immigrant Communities	Multi-Service Agency	121,777
Ray-Cam Cooperative Association	Youth Project	20,883
Red Door Rental Aid Society	Housing Information and Referral Service	11,358
Riley Park Community Association	Family Service Project	11,248
St. James Social Services Society	Multi-Service Agency	159,390
Skeena Terrace Tenants Association	Family Service Project	15,500
United Native Nations - Local 108	Streetworker Project	33,554
Vancouver Life Skills Society	Family Service Project	28,588
Vancouver Resource Society for the Physically Disabled	Housing Information and Referral Service	32,227
Vancouver Volunteer Society	Volunteer Services	47,500
Volunteer Grandparents Society of British Columbia	Family Service Project	55,558
West Side Family Place Society	Family Service Project	17,935
Western Institute for the Deaf	Services to the Handicapped	29,211
YWCA of Vancouver	Family Service Project	30,000
VICTORIA AND AREA		
Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Greater Victoria	Youth Project	9,291
Esquimalt Neighbourhood House Society	Family Service Project	30,175
Garth Homer Society for the Handicapped	Services to the Handicapped Volunteer Services	29,019
Greater Victoria Citizen Advocacy Society	Services to the Handicapped	34,683

Greater Victoria Volunteer Society	Volunteer Services	30,846
Kiwanis Club of Victoria	Youth Project	19,618
Oak Bay Volunteer Society	Volunteer Services	23,040
Peninsula Community Association:		
Volunteer Services	Volunteer Services	25,189
Community Counselling Service	Family Service Project	32,118
Salvation Army	Family Service Project	15,088
Victoria Child Sexual Abuse Society	Family Service Project	20,000
Victoria Single Parent Resource Centre Society	Family Service Project	34,491
YM-YWCA of Victoria	Youth Project	96,350
WHITE ROCK		
Peace Arch Community Services Society	Volunteer Services	24,883
Crescent Beach Community Services	Youth Project	14,484
TOTAL		**$4,835,252**

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES FOR THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED

The objective of the Residential Care Services Program is to provide mentally handicapped adults with places to live in their own communities, wherever possible, and to thus enhance their independence while meeting their specific needs.

COMMUNITY RESIDENTIAL CARE

This program operates under the statutory authority of the GAIN Act (section 2(1)(2)) and GAIN Regulations (sections 22, 24, 25 and schedule C). Standards of care are determined by the Community Care Facilities Licensing Act and Adult Care Regulations which are administered by the Ministry of Health.

Expenditures for adult residential care in 1987-88 were $45,515,052, including capital grants and start-up funds.

Residential care services available to mentally handicapped adults living in the community range from full personal care to counselling and support for independent living. The focus of each service is to assist the adult in achieving the greatest degree of independence possible.

The emphasis has continued to be on the development of a range of living opportunities for mentally handicapped adults in the community. This has resulted in the design of many different program models to meet individual needs.

1. **Community residences** are operated by nonprofit societies, individuals, partnerships and limited companies and vary in size from small family care homes to small group homes to larger residential facilities. Those caring for three or more residents must be licensed under the provisions of the Community Care Facility Act and Adult Care Regulations. In addition to providing basic services such as food, shelter, clothing, personal care, supervision, recreation and transportation, residences also provide assessment, skills training, community access and behavior management.

2. The **Semi-Independent Living Program** provides realistic in-home support to enable individuals with mental handicaps to live with the maximum independence possible in the community. The level of support provided varies according to individual need.

3. **Intensive Adult Care Services** provide time limited, intensive community based residential care and day care programming for mentally handicapped adults with severe behavior problems that cannot be handled in a regular resource in the community.

4. **Respite care** provides emergency or short- term respite for adults living at home or in a residential facility.

Table 42
Number of Community Residences for the Mentally Handicapped and Residential Spaces, by Region, 1987-88

Region	Residences*	Spaces**
2	9	25
3	69	321
4	27	158
5	26	154
6	56	257
7	18	55
8	64	235
9	69	225
10	72	190
11	—	—
12	41	245
13	56	167
14	22	95
16	17	26
17	6	11
18	48	174
19	46	115
TOTAL	646	2,453

* Residences include nonprofit group homes, licensed proprietary boarding homes, one- and two- bed unlicensed homes, semi-independent living homes and community worker programs.

Table 43
Number of Residents in Proprietary Residential Care Facilities, 1983-84 to 1987-88

Year	Residences*	Total
1987-88	462	1,236
1986-87	352	1,053
1985-86	312	979
1984-85	291	915
1983-84	283	866

* Residences include all forms of proprietary residences, boarding homes, unlicensed family homes, long-term care facilities which provide care for some mentally handicapped persons and privately operated semi-independent living homes.

Table 44
Facilities for the Mentally Handicapped Operated by Nonprofit Societies, 1983-84 to 1987-88

Year	Number of Contracted Facilities	Total Number of Mentally Handicapped Residents
1987-88	184	1,113
1986-87	156	942
1985-86	137	889
1984-85	88	675
1983-84	91	689

Five community worker programs, which serve approximately 104 adults during any given month, are included in these figures.

SPECIAL SERVICES FOR THE HANDICAPPED

One provincial institution, Woodlands in New Westminster, and one 50-bed facility, Alder Lodge in Coquitlam, provide services to mentally handicapped individuals. In addition to these two facilities, Glendale Lodge in Victoria, a Ministry of Health institution, also provides services to mentally handicapped individuals.

The increas d development of a network of community resources, which began in 1984-85 with the closure of the Tranquille institution, has continued as more residents of the remaining institutions move into the community.

Woodlands

Woodlands provides residential, assessment, planning, training and treatment services for mentally handicapped adults to the regions of the Lower Mainland and Northern Coast. Through outreach services, Woodlands also provides limited assessment services to mentally handicapped individuals living in the community.

The resident population at Woodlands continued to decline during 1987-88 at an accelerated rate. This downsizing activity flows from the provincial cabinet decision made in 1981 to gradually replace the large institutions serving mentally handicapped persons with a network of community-based resources.

The resident population of Woodlands was 528 on March 31, 1988. Expenditures for 1987-88 totalled $33,331,813.

Table 45
Woodlands, Expenditures, 1983-84 to 1987-88

Year	Expenditure
1987-88	$33,331,813
1986-87	32,409,359
1985-86	33,616,087
1984-85	34,000,226
1983-84	32,656,605

Table 46
Woodlands, Resident Population, 1983-84 to 1987-88

Year	Admissions	Discharges	Resident Population at March 31
1987-88	21	97	528
1986-87	37	87	604
1985-86	42	63	654
1984-85	37	57	675
1983-84	42	58	695

Admissions:	10	Short-term
	11	Long-term
Discharges:	79	Community placements (regular)
	15	Community placements after short-term admissions
	3	Deaths

Table 47
Woodlands, Resident Placements, 1983-84 to 1987-88

Year	To Family Home	To Independent Home	To Community Facility	Total Placements
1987-88	3	-	91	94
1986-87	5	-	82	87
1985-86	2	-	54	56
1984-85	4	-	44	48
1983-84	4	1	47	52

Alder Lodge

Alder Lodge is a 50-bed facility providing residential, prevocational and outreach services for mentally handicapped individuals whose service needs cannot be met in their home communities. Administration was provided by Region 19 from April to September 1987, at which time it was transferred to Woodlands. Alder Lodge serves the Lower Mainland regions of the Ministry of Social Services and Housing.

In addition to working with individuals and agencies to develop appropriate services for residents, Alder Lodge staff assist agencies to develop alternative community-based residential and support resources for mentally handicapped people in Region 19.

To help residents return to their home communities, Alder Lodge maintains close working relationships with a variety of community agencies and resources.

SECTION VI
INCOME ASSISTANCE

INCOME ASSISTANCE

INTRODUCTION TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The Income Assistance Division administers programs and services which provide a basic income for British Columbians in need and assists them to become independent and self-supporting. These services are delivered under the statutory authority of the Guaranteed Available Income for Need (GAIN) Act.

Income assistance programs and services are administered through the ministry's district offices. Eligibility for benefits is based on an objective measurement of an applicant's needs and financial circumstances.

To protect the rights of individuals applying for assistance, the ministry has established an appeal process. A ministry appeal kit is available to provide information to applicants when initiating an appeal. In the 1987-88 fiscal year 1,541 appeals were submitted. These consisted of 1,295 administrative reviews and 246 tribunals. Sixty-two per cent of all appeals ruled in favor of the ministry and 38 per cent ruled in favor of the appellant.

Table 48
Appeals - April 1987 to March 1988

Total Number of Administrative Reviews	1,295
Total Number of Tribunals	246
Total Number of Appeals	1,541
Total Number of Administrative Reviews in Favor of Ministry	889
Total Number of Administrative Reviews in Favor of Appellant	406
Total Number of Tribunal Decisions in Favor of Ministry	73
Total Number of Tribunal Decisions in Favor of Appellant	173

Income assistance is provided through three types of GAIN programs: GAIN Income Assistance, GAIN Supplementary (including GAIN for Handicapped and GAIN for Seniors), and GAIN for Seniors Supplement (see Services to Seniors, Section VII). When assistance is provided to families where one or more members qualify for financial assistance from GAIN for Handicapped and GAIN for Seniors Supplement, the family case is reported under Supplementary GAIN.

In 1987-88, income assistance caseloads decreased four per cent from the 1986-87 levels. As of March 31, 1988, the total income assistance caseload (including the 60 to 64 age group and the CIHR cases) was 119,979 compared to 124,589 on March 31, 1987. The total annual expenditure for basic and supplementary income assistance was $815,957,984.

Table 49
GAIN Income Assistance, Expenditures, 1983-84 to 1987-88

Year	Expenditure
1987-88	$815,957,984
1986-87	821,231,476
1985-86	840,934,411
1984-85	815,379,309
1983-84	744,106,530

BASIC INCOME ASSISTANCE

Basic income assistance provides financial assistance to eligible recipients to help meet fundamental living expenses. Basic income assistance consists of a monthly shelter allowance, determined by the family's actual shelter and utility costs, and a monthly support allowance. Benefit levels are based on family size. The income assistance program includes low income families in need of supplementary income as well as family situations where one or more recipients is aged 60 or over, and children living in the home of relatives (CIHR) who receive assistance on behalf of the child.

Income assistance is intended as temporary financial help in a time of need. Ministry policies encourage and assist employable clients to seek independence and self-sufficiency. Monthly benefits are available to eligible people aged 19 to 64 years, and to their dependents.

Table 50
Basic Income Assistance Rates,* March 1988

Family Size	Employable		Unemployable	
	8 months	after 8 months	8 months	after 8 months
Single	$430	$430	$430	$480
2 people	732	732	732	782
3 people	871	871	871	921
4 people	973	973	973	1,023
5 people	1,082	1,082	1,082	1,132
6 people	1,161	1,161	1,161	1,211
7 people	1,255	1,255	1,255	1,305
8 people	1,333	1,333	1,333	1,383
9 people	1,409	1,409	1,409	1,459
10 people	1,487	1,487	1,487	1,537
11 or more	add up to $70 for each additional person			

* The amount paid for shelter allowance depends upon the actual shelter costs paid by recipients. These rates reflect the maximum amount available to recipients in each category.

Table 51
GAIN Basic Income Assistance, Monthly Case Activity, 1987-88

Month	Cases Closed*	Cases Opened*	Increase/ Decrease	Total Cases
April 1987	11,359	10,930	-429	117,687
May 1987	11,634	10,009	- 1,625	115,894
June 1987	11,447	10,450	-997	114,688
July 1987	12,588	11,827	-761	113,697
August 1987	12,424	10,123	- 2,301	111,194
September 1987	12,379	10,399	- 1,980	109,038
October 1987	12,140	12,003	-137	108,730
November 1987	12,307	10,995	- 1,312	107,217
December 1987	10,251	14,052	+ 3,801	110,841
January 1988	9,724	12,598	+ 2,874	113,525
February 1988	11,284	11,247	-37	113,286
March 1988	10,924	11,560	+636	113,737

* Cases Closed: Estimates of those clients who did not receive income assistance in the current month but received income assistance in the previous month.

* Cases Opened: Estimates of those clients who received income assistance in the current month but did not receive income assistance in the previous month.

SUPPLEMENTARY GAIN

GAIN for Handicapped

GAIN for Handicapped benefits are provided to applicants between the ages of 18 and 64 years who have limited income and assets and who meet the medical and social definition of a "handicapped person" as defined by the GAIN Regulations. The individual must have a permanent medical condition that is so severe that financial independence via employment is precluded. Further, the individual must permanently require either extensive assistance or supervision to manage daily living or face unusual ongoing extra costs arising from their medical condition.

In recognition of the added financial difficulties faced by the handicapped, GAIN for Handicapped benefits provide the recipient with a higher level of monthly income assistance (approximately 36 per cent higher than a basic income assistance recipient). In addition, medical, dental and pharmacy services are provided and a yearly bus pass can be purchased by the handicapped for a nominal fee ($32.00 in 1988). An increased monthly earning exemption is available to a single handicapped recipient to encourage the individual to explore employment opportunities.

Once designated as a "handicapped person," an individual retains the status permanently. However, monthly benefits are suspended if the individual becomes financially independent. Ongoing medical benefits remain in effect when the individual becomes independent through employment. As of March 1988, there were 16,495 recipients receiving monthly benefits.

Table 52
Number of Persons in Receipt of GAIN for Handicapped, March 1984 to 1988

Year	Number of Persons
1988	16,495
1987	16,192
1986	16,070
1985	16,281
1984	16,264

GAIN for Seniors (Not Receiving Old Age Security)

A second supplementary GAIN plan, with 2,094 recipients, covers families where at least one recipient in a family is over 65 years of age and does not qualify for federal Old Age Security benefits.

Mixed Families with Old Age Security Component

The third plan, with 350 recipients, covers families where at least one member is over 65 years of age and qualifies for federal Old Age Security, and other family members qualify for benefits under other income assistance programs.

As of March 31, 1988, the ministry had 18,939 Supplementary GAIN recipients. Of these, 123 recipients and their dependents were involved in more than one plan.

Table 53
Number of Supplementary GAIN Recipients and Cases by Family Type, March 31, 1988

FAMILY TYPE	RECIPIENTS				
	GAIN For The Handicapped	Age 65+ (Not receiving OAS)	Families with an OAS Component	Total Number of: Recipients	Cases
Single Men	7,213	208	–	7,421	7,421
Single Women	6,090	717	–	6,807	6,807
Couples	1,753	1,097	276	3,126	2,265
Two-Parent	670	58	56	784	724
One-Parent	769	14	18	801	801
TOTAL	16,495	2,094	350	18,939	18,018

Table 54
Total GAIN Caseload by Family Type and Dependent Children, March 1988

	Single Male	Single Female	Couples	Two-Parent	One-Parent	Total Cases	Total Dependent Children
INCOME ASSISTANCE (IA)							
Child with Relative	1,027	958	–	–	–	1,985	–
Age 60 – 64	1,535	1,665	781	176	100	4,257	424
Basic GAIN	44,177	20,112	3,539	10,307	35,602	113,737	82,636
Total IA	46,739	22,735	4,230	10,483	35,702	119,979	83,060
SUPPLEMENTARY GAIN							
GAIN for the Handicapped	7,213	6,090	1,339	618	769	16,029	2,094
Age 65+ (not receiving OAS)	208	717	645	52	14	1,636	90
Families with an OAS component	–	–	161	51	18	230	116
Mixed Plans *	–	–	120	3	–	123	3
Total Supplementary	7,421	6,807	2,265	724	801	18,018	2,303
TOTAL GAIN CASES	**54,160**	**29,542**	**6,585**	**11,207**	**36,503**	**137,997**	**85,363**

* Mixed Plans – Families containing Two Different Plans:
GAIN For The Handicapped and Age 65+ (Not Receiving OAS) – 5 Cases
GAIN For The Handicapped and Families With an OAS Component – 84 Cases
Age 65+ (Not Receiving OAS) and Families With an OAS Component – 34 Cases
TOTAL – 123 Cases

Table 55
Number of Cases of GAIN Income Assistance, by Category and Region, March 1988

	Region 2 (Vancouver Burrard)	Region 3 (Okanagan)	Region 4 (Kootenays)	Region 5 (Pr. George/ Cariboo)	Region 6 (Fraser Valley)	Region 7 (Pr.Rupert/ Bulkley Valley and North/South Peace River)	Region 8 (Victoria West)	Region 9 (Kamloops Mainline)	Region 10 (Vancouver Island North)
CATEGORY									
Single Men	7,154	1,934	1,050	2,091	2,328	1,731	1,321	1,991	3,116
Single Women	2,421	1,244	571	1,035	1,354	838	801	1,094	1,675
One Parent Family	1,202	2,884	1,393	2,475	3,146	1,810	1,974	2,306	3,410
Two Parent Family	421	838	391	676	1,051	474	565	834	1,113
Couples	314	373	162	236	349	168	229	341	434
Child With Relatives	43	142	72	106	186	200	122	175	184
TOTAL CASES	11,555	7,415	3,639	6,619	8,414	5,221	5,012	6,741	9,932
Dependents: Children	2,556	6,808	3,212	6,007	7,908	4,365	4,604	5,792	8,260
Spouses	735	1,211	553	912	1,400	642	794	1,175	1,547
TOTAL RECIPIENTS	**14,846**	**15,434**	**7,404**	**13,538**	**17,722**	**10,228**	**10,410**	**13,708**	**19,739**

	Region 11 (Victoria East)	Region 12 (Fraser South and Vancouver West)	Region 13 (Fraser North)	Region 14 (North Shore/ Sunshine Coast)	Region 16 (Vancouver South)	Region 17 (Vancouver -Downtown/ Eastside)	Region 18 (Surrey)	Region 19 (Coquitlam/ Maple Ridge)	PROVINCIAL TOTAL
CATEGORY									
Single Men	2,590	2,087	3,556	2,041	2,460	5,482	3,003	1,777	45,712
Single Women	1,270	1,139	1,763	1,062	1,284	1,822	1,491	913	21,777
One Parent Family	1,789	1,570	2,093	1,448	1,661	1,371	3,120	2,050	35,702
Two Parent Family	422	368	480	391	682	526	752	499	10,483
Couples	192	130	283	179	196	288	278	167	4,320
Child With Relatives	112	90	87	53	88	92	123	110	1,985
TOTAL CASES	6,375	5,384	8,262	5,174	6,371	9,581	8,767	5,516	119,979
Dependents: Children	3,746	3,310	4,244	3,162	4,267	3,382	6,951	4,486	83,060
Spouses	614	498	763	570	878	814	1,030	666	14,802
TOTAL RECIPIENTS	**10,735**	**9,192**	**13,269**	**8,906**	**11,516**	**13,777**	**16,748**	**10,668**	**217,841**

Table 56
Average Monthly Number of Recipients (Including Dependants), Total GAIN Income Assistance, 1983-84 to 1987-88

Year	Number of Recipients
1987-88	215,830
1986-87	224,515
1985-86	234,741
1984-85	232,220
1983-84	212,414

Table 57
Average Number of Basic Income Assistance Cases and Recipients Per Month, by Category, 1987-88

Category	
Heads of Family	49,186 cases
Single Persons	63,275 cases
Total Caseload	112,461
Dependants	95,898
Average Monthly Total	208,359 recipients

Table 58
Total GAIN Caseload and Number of Recipients by Region for March 1988

Region	Income Assistance Cases	Income Assistance Recipients	Supplementary Cases	Supplementary Recipients	Total GAIN Cases	Total GAIN Recipients
2	11,555	14,846	1,571	1,843	13,126	16,689
3	7,415	15,434	1,406	1,916	8,821	17,350
4	3,639	7,404	649	842	4,288	8,246
5	6,619	13,538	627	942	7,246	14,480
6	8,414	17,722	1,233	1,689	9,647	19,411
7	5,221	10,228	490	692	5,711	10,920
8	5,012	10,410	660	925	5,672	11,335
9	6,741	13,708	938	1,320	7,679	15,028
10	9,932	19,739	1,026	1,398	10,958	21,137
11	6,375	10,735	1,154	1,371	7,529	12,106
12	5,384	9,192	1,129	1,406	6,513	10,598
13	8,262	13,269	1,373	1,685	9,635	14,954
14	5,174	8,906	766	934	5,941	9,841
16	6,371	11,516	1,340	1,746	7,711	13,262
17	9,581	13,777	1,866	2,246	11,447	16,023
18	8,767	16,748	1,084	1,421	9,851	18,169
19	5,516	10,668	706	934	6,222	11,602
TOTALS	119,979	217,841	18,018	23,310	137,997	241,151

Table 59
Employability Status of GAIN Income Assistance Cases, by Region, for March 1988

Region	Employable	Unemployable
2	7,294	4,261
3	4,563	2,852
4	2,336	1,303
5	4,161	2,458
6	4,882	3,532
7	3,291	1,930
8	2,742	2,270
9	4,203	2,538
10	6,161	3,771
11	3,400	2,975
12	3,370	2,014
13	4,966	3,296
14	3,486	1,689
16	3,828	2,543
17	5,296	4,285
18	5,540	3,227
19	3,286	2,230
TOTAL	72,805	47,174

OTHER SERVICES AND BENEFITS

Under the provisions of GAIN legislation, income assistance recipients may qualify for various additional allowances.

When a recipient is without assets, income or other resources to meet an emergency, the ministry may provide additional assistance in the form of a Crisis Grant. Expenditures for 1987-88 Crisis Grants were $4,217,885.

Table 60
Crisis Grants, Expenditures, 1983-84 to 1987-88

Year	Expenditure
1987-88	$4,217,885
1986-87	3,530,465
1985-86	3,368,018
1984-85	2,774,305
1983-84	2,621,628

A School Start-Up Allowance is provided to families with dependent children to help meet extra costs at the start of the school year. In 1987-88, this allowance was $31 for children age 6 to 11 inclusive, and $47 for children age 12 and older. The cost of this benefit was $1,736,394.

Table 61
School Start-Up Allowance, Expenditures, 1983-84 to 1987-88

Year	Expenditure
1987-88	$1,736,394
1986-87	1,726,108
1985-86	1,630,895
1984-85	1,595,783
1983-84	1,408,752

The ministry continued to make funds available to enable handicapped adults and children of income assistance recipients to attend recognized summer camp programs. Expenditures for camp fees were $436,994 in 1987-88.

Table 62
Camp Fees, Expenditures, 1983-84 to 1987-88

Year	Expenditure
1987-88	$436,994
1986-87	364,857
1985-86	350,304
1984-85	303,078
1983-84	274,750

An extra Christmas Allowance of $28 for a single person and $70 for a family was available in the month of December. This allowance totalled $5,699,877 in 1987-88.

Table 63
Christmas Supplementary Allowance, Expenditures, 1983-84 to 1987-88

Year	Expenditure
1987-88	$5,699,877
1986-87*	5,989,020
1985-86	4,506,261
1984-85	4,121,296
1983-84	3,745,814

*Includes an increase in the Christmas Allowance.

A maximum allowance of up to $20 per month may be provided to a recipient to meet extraordinary dietary requirements. In 1987-88, $1,691,463 was expended to help meet these requirements.

Table 64
Diet Allowance, Expenditures, 1983-84 to 1987-88

Year	Expenditure
1987-88	$1,691,463
1986-87	1,635,810
1985-86	1,490,704
1984-85	1,270,742
1983-84	1,145,342

A Natal Allowance of up to $25 per month may be granted to a recipient who is pregnant or who has a child who is less than seven months old. In the case of a multiple pregnancy or birth, the allowance may be increased to up to $40 per month. In 1987-88, $1,209,750 was expended in Natal Allowances.

Table 65
Natal Allowance, Expenditures, 1983-84 to 1987-88

Year	Expenditure
1987-88	$1,209,750
1986-87	1,205,655
1985-86	1,275,385
1984-85	1,236,513
1983-84	1,097,096

A Comforts Allowance of up to $60 per month may be provided to recipients in special care facilities to meet personal needs. A monthly average of 3,772 people received this allowance through the GAIN payment system; this figure does not include those paid a comforts allowance through institutional budgets, such as Woodlands. The total expenditure for 1987-88 was $3,089,357.

Table 66
Comforts Allowance, Expenditures and Number of Recipients, 1983-84 to 1987-88

Year	Recipients*	Expenditure
1987-88	3,772	$3,089,357
1986-87	3,671	2,832,167
1985-86	3,564	2,564,075
1984-85	3,344	2,423,093
1983-84	3,211	2,389,927

* These figures do not include recipients paid through an institutional budget.

A recipient who requires the assistance of a registered guide dog is entitled to receive an additional allowance of up to $35 per month.

Where a deceased person has no estate, relatives or other persons able to assume responsibility, the ministry will provide payment of burial or cremation costs. In 1987-88, the cost of 596 funerals amounted to $815,765.

Table 67
Burial of Indigents, Expenditures and Number of Burials, 1983-84 to 1987-88

Year	Number	Expenditure
1987-88	596	$815,765
1986-87	568	720,187
1985-86	600	729,900
1984-85	598	712,493
1983-84	523	645,995

Eligible recipients who have received income assistance for three consecutive months may retain a portion of their job earnings to assist with work-related expenses. Policy allows for an earnings exemption for up to $50 per month for a single person and up to $100 per month for a single handicapped person or a person with dependants. In 1986-87, the Enhanced Earnings Exemption Program was introduced. Now, in the fourth month on assistance, employable recipients qualify for the standard earnings exemption as well as an additional exemption of 25 per cent of their monthly earnings of amounts above the standard exemption until they are no longer eligible for benefits. Where it would be to the advantage of unemployable or handicapped recipients, they may choose to opt into the Enhanced Earnings Exemption Program.

In special circumstances, where such a move would improve employment opportunities, recipients may receive financial assistance to return to their home province or country of origin. In 1987-88, this assistance totalled $90,754.

Table 68
Repatriation, Expenditures, 1983-84 to 1987-88

Year	Expenditure
1987-88	$ 90,754
1986-87	88,433
1985-86	153,242
1984-85	99,112
1983-84	105,567

EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVES PROJECTS

A central Employment Initiatives Projects unit, with designated staff in all regions, has been established to support the ministry's commitment to assist employable income assistance recipients in their transition to the labor force. The unit co-ordinates the ministry's activities in relation to both provincial and federal government employment and training programs. The ministry was a major participant in the provincial JobTrac initiative and the unit coordinated the services available to income assistance recipients through this initiative. In general, the ministry acts as a referral agency for recipients to employment and training opportunities.

Activities within the project include provision of training and support to field staff and liaison with other provincial ministries, federal government agencies and the private sector. The interests of income assistance recipients are represented and their needs defined for program developers. Key staff have been designated in each region to co-ordinate activities at the local level.

Specific program involvement in 1987-88 included Forestry JobTrac, in which 2,507 income assistance recipients participated with an expenditure of $19,776,000; JobTrac Employment Subsidy Program in which 1,950 clients participated with an expenditure of $3,451,174; Community JobTrac which assisted 1,646 clients with an expenditure of $16,302,733; and Environment JobTrac which assisted 364 clients with an expenditure of $3,500,000. The ministry worked co-operatively with other ministries on these programs. In addition, the ministry assisted 5,464 income assistance recipients to participate in federal government employment and training programs including Job

Development, Job Re-Entry, Job Entry and Innovations. The programs are administered through Employment and Immigration Canada and expenditures for this ministry's clients during 1987-88 were approximately $34 million.

The Ministry of Social Services and Housing has participated in a number of employment projects geared to one of its major priorities: helping income assistance clients to get back into the labor force. Community JobTrac and Forestry JobTrac were two such programs.

Community JobTrac provided income assistance recipients with training and employment opportunities in community projects which supported local and regional tourism, recreation, culture and heritage development strategies.

The Ministries of Advanced Education and Job Training and Tourism, Recreation and Culture co-sponsored Community JobTrac. Wages for employees and expenses were made available to nonprofit organizations to employ and train income assistance recipients. Workers were selected from referrals made by local Ministry of Social Services and Housing offices.

In the 1987-88 fiscal year, the Community JobTrac Program funded 181 projects which employed 1,646 income assistance recipients at a cost of $16,302,733.

Forestry JobTrac provided income assistance recipients with work experience and training as they enhanced the forest resource base in the province. Silviculture contractors hired income assistance clients to carry out forest improvement projects. They selected their crews from referrals made by local Ministry of Social Services and Housing offices. For a duration of up to six months of work and training, the crews were helped to develop the skills required for a variety of work opportunities.

In the 1987-88 fiscal year, the target was to place at least 2,470 longer term income assistance clients in forest enhancement projects. By the end of the fiscal year, 2,507 clients had been employed in the program. The goal was to provide solid work experience and skills training, thus enhancing the employability of the participants and increasing their chances of becoming independent of income assistance.

The Forestry JobTrac Program was successful in providing training and work experience which enabled participants to become independent of income assistance and the work performed by program participants enhanced the province's resource base.

JobTrac: Employment Subsidy Program

Formerly called the Ministry of Labour/Ministry of Human Resources Joint Training Assistance Program, the JobTrac Employment Subsidy program provides an opportunity for income assistance recipients to develop skills through on-the-job training. This program operates under the statutory authority of the Apprenticeship Act.

Through this program, employers who provided on-the-job training opportunities for income assistance recipients were eligible to receive a wage subsidy from the Ministry of Advanced Education and Job Training. Training placements were full-time from a minimum of two months to a maximum of one year.

A total of 1,950 clients participated in the JobTrac Employment Subsidy Program in 1987-88, compared to 1,292 in the previous year. Expenditures were $3,451,174, an increase from the previous year when $2,133,035 was spent.

Individual Opportunity Plan Programs

The purpose of an Individual Opportunity Plan (IOP) is to help income assistance recipients identify employment barriers and to clearly define attainable steps to overcome these barriers. To help a recipient as much as possible, the Ministry of Social Services and Housing provides ongoing participatory programs to clients as part of their individual opportunity plan.

A total of 25,268 clients participated in individual opportunity plans in 1987-88.

Table 69
Client Participation in Individual Opportunity Plans, 1987-88

Educational, Vocational and Rehabilitative Services	17,223
Job Action	3,781
Counselling	3,081
Incentive Allowance for Employment Programs	1,183

The following is a more detailed explanation of the various IOP programs:

Educational, Vocational and Rehabilitative Services

The Educational, Vocational and Rehabilitative Services Program provides an opportunity for income assistance recipients to take part in educational, vocational or rehabilitative programs in preparation for employment. This program operates under the statutory authority of the GAIN Act (section 10) and GAIN Regulations (section 13).

In addition to basic income assistance, the ministry may provide payment for the cost of educational programs and allowances for extra expenses when financial assistance from other sources, such as student loans, federal programs and other provincial ministries, is unavailable.

A total of 17,223 clients received assistance with education and training in 1987-88. This includes income assistance clients who received direct assistance such as tuition, allowances from this ministry as well as those who were assisted by other sources while in receipt of GAIN. Expenditures by this ministry for direct assistance in 1987-88 were $2,286,963.

Table 70
Educational, Vocational and Rehabilitative Services, Expenditures, 1983-84 to 1987-88

Year	Expenditure
1987-88	$2,286,963
1986-87	1,920,882 *
1985-86	2,949,286
1984-85	2,671,792
1983-84	2,671,240

* Does not include Job Action Program expenditure of $1,518,948. Job Action Program expenditures were included in this table in previous fiscal years.

Job Action

In support of the ministry's commitment to assist employable income assistance recipients to become employed, the Job Action Program was provided to job-ready clients who need to develop effective job search skills. Job Action operates under the statutory authority of the GAIN Act (section 10) and GAIN Regulations (section 16).

Participants in the Job Action Program learn to identify their marketable employment skills and to present themselves effectively in an interview. They also learn techniques for locating prospective employers and getting job interviews.

Depending on the instructional resources available in a community, the Job Action Program was provided as a contracted service through private contractors, nonprofit organizations, community colleges or was provided by ministry staff. The Job Action Program was available in all of the ministry's regions.

In 1987-88, the ministry contracted for 42 programs in addition to those operated by the ministry and 3,781 employable income assistance recipients participated in the program. The 1987-88 Job Action Program expenditures were $1,853,360.

Job Action participants receive an allowance of $50 per week to a maximum of $150 for expenses related to job search. The cost per recipient in the Job Action Program is approximately equivalent to the cost of one month of income assistance to a single person. Indications are that participants in the Job Action Program are finding employment in a much shorter time than employable clients not participating in the program, with cost savings exceeding the costs of participation.

Table 71
Job Action, Expenditures, 1986-87 to 1987-88

Year	Expenditure
1987-88	$1,853,360
1986-87	1,518,948

Counselling

Employment related counselling is offered to all employable income assistance recipients. Table 69 indicates counselling of an ongoing or repetitive nature.

Incentive Allowance for Employment Program

This program provides a monthly incentive allowance for eligible income assistance recipients who participate at least part-time in a volunteer work experience to help prepare them for entry into the work force. This program operates under the statutory authority of the GAIN Act (section 10) and GAIN Regulations (section 14).

Participants must be in receipt of income assistance and may be placed in nonprofit or private agencies, federal, provincial or municipal government offices, or private sector businesses.

In addition to income assistance, the ministry provides an allowance of $50 for a single person and $100 for a person with dependents to cover program-related expenses. Clients may participate in the program for up to one year.

A total of 1,183 clients participated in 1987-88. Expenditures for the program in 1987-88 were $340,578.

Table 72
Incentive Allowance for Employment, Expenditures, 1983-84 to 1987-88

Year	Expenditure
1987-88	$340,578
1986-87	310,239
1985-86	363,532
1984-85	358,728
1983-84	606,956

Assistance to Employment

Under the GAIN Act (section 2) and GAIN Regulations (section 12), financial assistance for essential job-related expenses may be authorized to assist income assistance recipients to explore employment opportunities. Funds may be provided for essential clothing and transportation or moving costs to a confirmed job when financial aid is not available from any other source.

Expenditures for 1987-88 were $2,377,959.

Table 73
Assistance to Employment, Expenditures, 1983-84 to 1987-88

Year	Expenditure
1987-88	$2,377,959
1986-87	1,243,297
1985-86	772,240
1984-85	561,520
1983-84	692,753

ADULT RESIDENTIAL RESOURCES

The ministry provides funds to registered nonprofit societies for the development and operation of emergency shelters (transition houses) and single persons' hostels.

Emergency shelters provide temporary room and board for women and children in a period of personal crisis who may require immediate financial assistance. In 1987-88, the ministry provided funding for 39 emergency shelter facilities and 8 safe homes. Expenditures in 1987-88 were $4,277,744.

Single persons' hostels provide short-term accommodation to singles and childless couples who are travelling through an area and have no intention of establishing residency in the community, and to those who wish to settle in the community to seek employment or for reasons of age or health. In 1987-88, the ministry provided funding for 25 hostels at a cost of $2,514,694.

Table 74
Emergency Shelters (Including Transition Houses), Expenditures, 1983-84 to 1987-88

Year	Expenditure
1987-88	$4,277,744
1986-87	3,584,022
1985-86	2,986,551
1984-85	3,114,852
1983-84	2,514,830

Table 75
Emergency Shelters (Including Transition Houses), Service, 1983-84 to 1987-88

	1987-88	1986-87	1985-86	1984-85	1983-84
Number of Facilities	39	39	31	30	29
Safe Homes	8	8	8	10	5
Total Capacity*	378	366	278	254	234
Average Capacity Per Shelter*	9.7	9.9	9	8.7	8
Average Per Diem Rate*	$33.31	$30.93	$31.09	$27.39	$24.95

* Figures refer to adult capacity and per diem rates only. Safe homes are not included in these figures.

Table 76
Single Persons' Hostels, Expenditures, 1983-84 to 1987-88

Year	Expenditure
1987-88	$2,514,694
1986-87	2,518,466
1985-86	2,466,576
1984-85	2,314,070
1983-84	2,616,480

Table 77
Single Persons' Hostels, Service, 1983-84 to 1987-88

	1987-88	1986-87	1985-86	1984-85	1983-84
Number of Facilities	25	23	24	24	27
Total Capacity*	598	592	621	564	702
Average Capacity Per Shelter*	26	26	26	24	26
Average Per Diem Rate*	$21.21	$18.29	$18.03	$18.56	$18.20

* Figures refer to adult capacity and per diem rates only.

Some facilities offering treatment for people with alcohol- and drug-related problems were jointly funded with the Alcohol and Drug Programs of the Ministry of Health. (These programs were transferred to the Ministry of Labour and Consumer Services in early Spring of 1988.) Ministry of Social Services and Housing contributions were $1,313,978 in 1987-88.

Table 78
Shared Alcohol and Drug Facilities, Expenditures, 1983-84 to 1987-88

Year	Expenditure
1987-88	$1,313,978
1986-87	1,269,208
1985-86	1,208,093
1984-85	1,052,166
1983-84	931,231

MINISTRY INSPECTORS

The objective of the Ministry Inspectors Program is to prevent fraud and abuse of income assistance benefits. The ministry has a staff of 29 regional inspectors.

Ministry inspectors investigate cases of alleged fraud and recommend procedures for its detection and prevention. In most serious cases, court action is undertaken. Where possible, overpayments fraudulently obtained are recovered through out-of-court settlements.

In 1987-88, 8,941 allegations were investigated. There were 218 charges laid involving 555 individual counts. Additionally, 2,898 settlements were negotiated without court

action, totalling $3,663,500.

The total savings achieved by the ministry's inspectors cannot be estimated, because fraudulent claims and overpayments would have continued for an undetermined period of time if not detected.

Table 79
Ministry Inspectors Program, Statistical Data Covering All Regions, 1983-84 to 1987-88

	1987-88	1986-87	1985-86	1984-85	1983-84
Total Cases Reported for Investigation	8,941	9,288	8,955	9,547	8,517
Charges Laid	218	195	164	246	205
Cases Still Before Court as of March 31	161	138	119	144	139
Investigations Completed	8,904	9,215	8,707	8,589	8,246
Settlements Negotiated Out of Court	$3,663,500 (2,898 cases)	$2,607,432 (2,054 cases)	$2,156,049 (2,022 cases)	$1,678,957 (1,786 cases)	$1,495,539 (1,763 cases)
Total Monthly Assistance Terminated Due to Inspectors' Involvement	$571,232 (1,308 cases)	$488,219 (1,317 cases)	$512,291 (1,357 cases)	$553,415 (1,179 cases)	$578,321 (1,055 cases)

Note: The above represents only the amount of monthly assistance being granted at the time of termination. No attempt has been made to estimate the amount which may have been wrongfully received had assistance not been terminated. It is also impossible to estimate the amount of savings attributable to the preventive value of the program.

Table 80
Monthly Report of Cases Referred to Inspectors for Investigation, 1983-84 to 1987-88

Month	1987-88	1986-87	1985-86	1984-85	1983-84
April	656	825	921	812	579
May	753	849	691	869	815
June	778	642	808	880	762
July	780	853	785	595	755
August	673	687	720	820	746
September	736	817	662	678	732
October	909	762	822	741	639
November	849	711	643	670	620
December	624	545	607	640	548
January	731	908	749	942	792
February	751	871	779	1,031	749
March	701	818	768	869	780
TOTAL	8,941	9,288	8,955	9,547	8,517

FAMILY MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

On March 11, 1988, the GAIN Amendment Act (Bill 72) was passed in the House. This new legislation is intended to ensure that family breakdown does not impoverish dependent family members or place an excessive burden on public funds.

Bill 72 permits the Crown to pursue maintenance or child support on behalf of income assistance recipients. Where income assistance is paid to a person with a right to maintenance, that right is transferred to the Crown and the Crown may take action to secure adequate support for that person from the responsible party.

The Ministry of Social Services and Housing will hire specialized staff throughout the province to implement the provisions of Bill 72. Whenever possible, staff will seek maintenance for recipients by reaching an agreement with the responsible party. If a court hearing is required, legal counsel retained by the Ministry of Attorney General will present the case. If child custody or access are at issue, the parties will be advised of the services provided by Family Court Counsellors.

Bill 72 will be proclaimed throughout the province on a geographically phased-in basis.

EMERGENCY SOCIAL SERVICES

Emergency Social Services are reception centres, shelter, feeding, clothing, registration and inquiry, financial and personal services for evacuees, victims, and workers during civic emergencies. Under the provincial Emergency Program Act the ministry is responsible for assisting municipalities in planning for these services.

From 1987 to 1988, funding from the federal Joint Emergency Planning Program was matched by in-kind contributions from the Province to continue assistance to municipalities in planning Emergency Social Services. Ninety new municipal ESS directors and deputies were trained in their specialties, 853 ministry staff were trained in the ministry's role in emergencies and 90 municipalities were given direct assistance is ESS planning.

This work will continue in 1988 and 1989 to ensure all municipalities are prepared to efficiently provide Emergency Social Services.

HEALTH CARE AND DENTAL SERVICES

Provided under the statutory authority of GAIN Regulations (section 29), ministry health services include purchase of medical insurance, purchase of dental and optical services, payment for medical transportation and accommodation, purchase of medical supplies and equipment and purchase of services for certain designated therapies on behalf of eligible GAIN recipients.

Levels of assistance vary depending on the financial circumstances of the individual.

The Health Services Section is responsible for monitoring policy application and budgets. It serves in a consultative capacity to provide field offices with information pertaining to policy interpretation, available health care services and community resources. The section also arranges purchase of major medical equipment and

maintains inventory records of purchases. A limited supply of equipment owned by the ministry is provided on a short or long term basis to eligible income assistance recipients when needed.

Health Service program budgets are allocated to each region of the ministry. Field offices are responsible for determining eligibility and most expenditures are authorized at the local level. Ministry expenditures for Health Care and Dental Services in 1987-88 were $29,646,934.

Table 81
Health Care Services, Expenditures, 1983-84 to 1987-88

Year	Expenditure
1987-88	$29,646,934
1986-87	37,480,249
1985-86	36,014,815
1984-85	33,523,366 *
1983-84	33,398,164 **

* Effective July 1, 1984, responsibility for delivery of health services was decentralized. Health Service program budgets were allocated to each region of the ministry.

** On April 1, 1983, the ministry assumed responsibility for meeting co-insurance charges for income assistance clients requiring hospitalization. At the same time, the ministry re-assumed responsibility for providing dental services required by eligible clients.

Table 82
Gross Costs of Health Care Services, 1983-84 to 1987-88

Year	Medical*	Drugs**	Dental	Optical	Transport	Other***	Total
1987-88	$ 34,812	$ —	$19,534,925	$2,539,113	$3,794,687	$3,743,397	$ 29,646,934
1986-87	9,060,880	163,570,064	18,905,308	2,494,492	3,908,339	3,111,229	201,050,312
1985-86	8,235,595	136,499,740	19,395,146	2,469,225	3,432,718	2,482,131	172,514,555
1984-85	8,254,084	118,826,376	18,330,957	2,318,547	2,733,466	1,886,312	152,349,742
1983-84	7,406,650	106,573,295	20,148,679	2,195,967	2,316,167	1,330,701	139,971,459

* Medical costs in 1987-88 no longer include payment for Medical Services Plan premiums or hospital co-insurance charges.

** Drug costs reported are those incurred under the Pharmacare Program which was transferred to the Ministry of Health, effective April 1, 1987.

*** These costs include purchase of medical equipment, physiotherapy services, psychology services, speech and occupational therapy and miscellaneous minor services. Responsibility for approval of all such services was delegated to MSSH field offices effective July 1, 1984 in keeping with a decentralized approach to health service program delivery.

SECTION VII
SERVICES TO SENIORS

SERVICES TO SENIORS

INTRODUCTION TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The Ministry of Social Services & Housing delivers a variety of programs to support and enhance the independence, well-being and health of senior citizens. Ministry services recognize the special needs of seniors and assist them to meet as many of their own needs as possible, while promoting greater use of community resources.

GAIN FOR SENIORS SUPPLEMENT

This program provides a guaranteed minimum income to those seniors in receipt of the federal government's Guaranteed Income Supplement and Spouses' Allowance. The program operates under the Guaranteed Available Income for Need (GAIN) Act (section 2).

Persons eligible for the GAIN for Seniors benefit are paid automatically, based on federal pension information supplied by the Old Age Security Division of Health and Welfare Canada.

The number of GAIN for Seniors recipients as of March 1988 totalled 45,012. Expenditures for this program in 1987-88 were $20,486,940.

Table 83
GAIN for Seniors Supplement, Expenditures, 1983-84 to 1987-88

Year	Expenditure
1987-88	$20,486,940
1986-87	16,044,659
1985-86	16,744,294
1984-85	17,682,686
1983-84	18,205,417

Table 84
Number of Persons in Receipt of GAIN for Seniors Supplement, as of March, 1984 to 1988

Year	Number of Persons
1988	45,012
1987	42,796
1986	44,547
1985	46,967
1984	47,922

SHELTER AID FOR ELDERLY RENTERS (SAFER)

The SAFER program provides direct cash assistance for a portion of rental costs to Old Age Security recipients living in rental accommodation. The program operates under the Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) Act.

SAFER benefits equal 75 per cent of the amount by which rent exceeds 30 per cent of the applicant's total income. The maximum monthly rent that could be claimed for SAFER benefits was $330 for a single person and $365 for a couple.

To be eligible for SAFER, applicants must be 65 years of age or older, and a recipient of OAS renting a principal residence in British Columbia and paying more than 30 per cent of their income toward rent. In addition, applicants (or their spouses) must have resided in British Columbia for two years immediately prior to application or for five continuous years at any time in the past.

Total SAFER cases on March 31, 1988 were 8,436 and total program expenditures for 1987-88 were $6,498,907.

Table 85
SAFER, Expenditures, 1983-84 to 1987-88

Year	Expenditure
1987-88	$6,498,907
1986-87	7,140,658
1985-86	8,003,816
1984-85	9,129,701
1983-84	8,881,566

Table 86
Average Monthly SAFER Benefits, as of March, 1984 to 1988

Year	Singles	Couples	Sharers
1988	$63.15	$15.04	—*
1987	66.89	20.84	—*
1986	70.09	26.02	—*
1985	80.28	31.35	$ 8.00
1984	78.15	34.12	11.9

* Sharers who share rent equally are no longer eligible under the SAFER formula because their combined income exceeds entitlement.

Table 87
Total SAFER Cases, as of March, 1984 to 1988

Year	Number of Persons
1988	8,436
1987	8,997
1986	9,384
1985	9,962
1984	10,020

BUS PASSES

This program provides subsidized bus passes to aid and encourage the mobility of eligible low income senior citizens and recipients of GAIN for Handicapped benefits. The program operates under the GAIN Act and Regulations (schedule A, 3(b)iii). Ministry

bus passes enable the holder to travel without payment of fares on local transit systems.

Bus pass applicants must be residents of British Columbia, 65 years or older, who are in receipt of either the Federal Guaranteed Income Supplement or GAIN for Seniors Supplement or both; or 60 years or older, who are in receipt of GAIN benefits; or under 65 years of age and in receipt of GAIN for Handicapped benefits.

As of January 1, 1988, a bus pass cost each applicant $32 per year. As of March, 1988, there were 32,735 pass holders. The ministry paid $6,942,066 to BC Transit during the fiscal year for bus passes.

Table 88
Gross Payments to BC Transit for Bus Passes, fiscal year ending March 31, 1988

District	Gross Payments for 1987-88
Greater Vancouver	$5,674,870
Greater Victoria	891,367
Other Communities	375,829
TOTAL	$6,942,066

Table 89
Number of Bus Passes, by District, on December 31, 1987

District	Number of Passes
Greater Vancouver	25,415
Greater Victoria	4,188
Other Communities	3,132
TOTAL	32,735

Table 90
Number of Bus Passes on December 31, 1983 to 1987

Year	Number of Passes
1987	32,735
1986	32,879
1985	30,479
1984	30,766
1983	33,623

SENIOR CITIZEN COUNSELLORS

The Senior Citizen Counsellors Program helps inform senior citizens in British Columbia of all services and programs available to them and provides informal counselling and support. The program is provided under the statutory authority of the Guaranteed Available Income for Need Act (section 2).

Senior citizen counsellors are seniors who work as volunteers in co-operation with the Ministry of Social Services and Housing to provide information on seniors programs and services, assistance in completing pension forms, assistance with essential transportation, emotional support in times of crisis, friendly visiting, and assistance in the development of community services for seniors.

Counsellors are appointed because of their abilities as well as their interest in and involvement with seniors. They submit monthly statistical reports and expense claims and are reimbursed for expenses up to $100 per month. Effective July 1, 1987, this amount was raised from $100 to $125.

On March 31, 1988 there were 163 senior citizen counsellors throughout British Columbia. Program expenditures for the 1987-88 year totalled $204,679.

Table 91
Senior Citizen Counsellors, Expenditures, 1983-84 to 1987-88

Year	Expenditure
1987-88	$204,679 *
1986-87	196,100 *
1985-86	185,557
1984-85	227,251 *
1983-84	196,350

* These figures include expenditures for provincial workshops.

SECTION VIII
HOUSING

HOUSING

BRITISH COLUMBIA HOUSING MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

INTRODUCTION TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The British Columbia Housing Management Commission (BCHMC) manages provincial and federal-provincial housing programs on behalf of the Ministry of Social Services and Housing. It is a provincial government agency authorized by the Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing Act and by Order in Council No. 2388 dated September 7, 1978. The commission administers rent supplement programs, plans and oversees the allocation of new social housing projects and manages existing public housing. BCHMC's priorities are to discharge its responsibilities in a cost-effective manner and to ensure that assistance is provided only to those in need. BCHMC provides adequate and affordable housing to those who otherwise would have to spend more than 30 per cent of their income on suitable shelter and to those with special design requirements not available in the private sector.

Under Canada's constitution, housing falls within provincial jurisdiction. Consequently, the federal government has been transferring its responsibilities to the provinces. In 1986, the provincial housing role was expanded to include the delivery of all federal-provincial cost-shared social housing.

Although BCHMC does not administer any specific legislation, its expenditures are authorized under the National Housing Act and the Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing Act.

BCHMC is involved in three main activities:

1. Rent Supplement Programs - These programs provide operating subsidies to projects managed by nonprofit societies and income assistance to individuals living in private sector rental units. In 1987, a total of $7,690,700 was provided to 5,037 rent supplement units. A further 8,125 households were eligible for subsidy but were able to afford full cost recovery rents for their housing at 30 per cent or less of their income.

2. Public Housing - In 1987, under this program, BCHMC managed 8,157 units in 112 developments located throughout the province, which provided housing for 1,195 new tenants. The operating subsidy for these projects was $25.2 million.

3. Social Housing Program (1986) - Under this new initiative, 1,843 units were approved for development in 1987. The estimated total subsidy for these units when they are completed is $10 million.

YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS

International Year of Shelter for the Homeless

In 1987, social housing staff participated in workshops at the Conference for Homelessness in British Columbia.

The needs of the homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless were recognized

through the completion of two new projects under the Nonprofit Housing Program. The projects, sponsored by the Downtown Eastside Residents Association and the Mavis McMullen Society, give priority to families, the disabled, older singles and seniors living in crowded or substandard housing in Vancouver's downtown eastside.

Proposal Calls

Activity under the new social housing programs which began in 1986, is determined annually through a joint planning process with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Housing units are allocated in various communities throughout the province based on the distribution of need and market considerations.

As in the previous year, commission staff issued a call for proposals in 1987 in the communities which were targeted for social housing projects. Submissions were reviewed and evaluated on the basis of cost, long-term operating efficiency, and how they met the location and design requirements of the clients to be served. Projects which best met these criteria were recommended for conditional approval to the Minister of Social Services and Housing. Final approval was granted after sponsors fulfilled outstanding requirements such as rezoning, development permits and approved working drawings.

The total construction cost of projects approved during 1987 will be approximately $63.3 million.

Capital Maintenance Program

In 1987, approximately $11.5 million was spent on major building and grounds renovations through the Capital Maintenance Program. Renovations ranged from refurbishing unit interiors to relandscaping entire developments. Tenants were informed of major renovations planned for their development through "News for You", BCHMC's tenant newsletter.

Life Safety and Energy Conservation

During 1987, $630,000 was spent on life, safety and energy conservation programs. Improvements were made to fire alarms and entry security systems, and a number of fire safety plans were approved at developments in various municipalities.

New energy efficient light fixtures were installed in public areas of some buildings, resulting in reduced energy consumption and costs.

FORECAST

The economy of British Columbia has substantially improved over the past 12 months. Stable conditions are expected in the single-family condominium home ownership segment of the housing market for the next three years. Increased in-migration, combined with rent increases, is putting pressure on the limited supply of rental accommocation. The main social housing priority will be to deliver assistance to those in need.

The design of social housing delivery programs allows a flexible response to market conditions and client requirements, either through new construction, sponsored by

nonprofit societies, or the leasing of private market units. In either case, housing will be provided in the most cost efficient way possible. This will be in co-ordination with the private market rather than in competition with it.

The British Columbia Housing Management Commission issues a separate annual report each calendar year.

Table 92
Net Costs of BCHMC Activities, for year ending December 31, 1987

Activity	Total Cost	Provincial Share
Social Housing		
Section 40 *	$16,999,523	$ 4,275,801 **
Section 44 ***	9,771,452	4,889,824
Rent Supplements ****	7,690,700	3,872,272
Provincial Programs	1,914,917	1,914,917
TOTAL	$36,376,592	$14,952,814

* Under Section 40 of the National Housing Act, public housing is federally-provincially cost-shared on a 75 per cent - 25 per cent basis.

** Through federal-provincial agreement, cost-sharing of amortization is on a project-by-project basis. When aggregated, the total is approximately 75 per cent - 25 per cent.

*** Under Section 44 of the National Housing Act, public housing is federally-provincially cost-shared equally.

**** Rent Supplement Programs are federally-provincially cost-shared on an average 50 per cent - 50 per cent basis.

B.C. HOME MORTGAGE BRANCH

INTRODUCTION TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The Home Mortgage Branch administers the following four statutes:
- Provincial Home Acquisition Act
- Home Purchase Assistance Act
- Home Conversion and Leasehold Loan Act
- Homeowner Interest Assistance Act

In September, 1986, with the dissolution of the Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing, responsibility for the operation of the Home Mortgage Branch was transferred to the Ministry of Social Services and Housing.

During the 1987-88 fiscal year, the implementation of a new computer system to manage the home mortgage system continued to be a high priority. When implemented, the new computer system will manage the active mortgage accounts of the branch and

will provide improved efficiency in application approval, accounting and financial control, and responses to public inquiries. It is expected that the home mortgage system will be fully implemented by late spring of 1988.

During 1987-88, the Home Mortgage Branch spent $1.3 million in administration costs and employed 56 full-time employees.

B.C. SECOND MORTGAGE PROGRAM

The B.C. Second Mortgage Program is administered under the authority of the Home Purchase Assistance Act, introduced in June, 1976.

The B.C. Second Mortgage Program assists purchasers in acquiring homes they could not otherwise afford. The program also provides clients with the social benefits which accrue from homeownership and stimulates the labor-intensive home construction market.

The B.C. Second Mortgage Program, available since 1969, provides the home purchaser with a second mortgage loan of up to $10,000, so that his down payment can be as little as 5 per cent of the purchase price of a moderately priced home.

To ensure the B.C. Second Mortgage Program benefits those who need it most, the minister has defined moderately priced homes as those costing $85,000 or less. This limit is tied to market prices and is set at a level which ensures a significant proportion of homes for sale in every community falls within the limit.

Although the B.C. Second Mortgage Program is not available to commercial builders, they receive indirect benefits from the program which provides a source of funding to their prospective new home clients. As such, the program acts as an economic stimulus and encourages commercial builders to build moderately priced homes.

Fiscal Year Summary

During fiscal year 1987-88, 9,500 B.C. second mortgages were issued for a total of $81.6 million. This is an increase over last fiscal year when 7,700 mortgages were issued totalling $73 million. The increase is due in part to continuing favorable home prices and interest rates.

Primarily as a result of foreclosure action by the first mortgagee, $4.6 million was written off in bad debts on total loan receivables of $289 million.

Forecast

The past year has seen a very active real estate market. A combination of increasing property values and relatively stable interest rates has resulted in high volume activity in home sales. During 1987-88, the Home Mortgage Branch recorded its highest year ever for issuing second mortgages. It is expected that, providing interest rates remain stable and property values continue their upward trend, similar high volume demand for the B.C. second mortgage can be expected during the coming year.

B.C. HOME PROGRAM

The B.C. Home Program was introduced in October, 1982, when interest rates climbed to an all-time high and many homeowners were unable to meet their greatly increased monthly mortgage payments. The Home Mortgage Branch, under the authority of the Homeowner Interest Assistance Act, helped by lending monthly cash benefits to homeowners whose mortgage interest rate was greater than 12 per cent.

The B.C. Home Program was a short-term program which paid benefits from October, 1982 until September, 1985. The sum of benefits received could be held, interest free, until September, 1986, at which time the loan was repayable. Approximately $102 million was paid in loans to more than 50,000 homeowners during the payment period.

For those homeowners unable to make full cash repayment of their loan by September 30, 1986, the option of repaying by monthly instalment, over a period ranging from one to five years, at 11.5 per cent interest, was made available by signing a repayment agreement. Further provision was made for those, who due to proven financial hardship, were unable to repay their loans under a five year agreement. In such cases, individual agreements, reflecting the client's current ability to pay, were negotiated. In anticipation of an improvement in the client's financial situation, such agreements are subject to annual review.

Fiscal Year Summary

On March 31, 1988, there were 7,200 outstanding loans, totalling $13.8 million. Approximately 6,700 clients were making regular monthly payments under the terms of a repayment agreement.

Efforts continue to negotiate agreements with clients who have not yet made arrangements for the repayment of their loans. Until a loan is repaid, the Homeowner Interest Assistance Act certificate remains as a charge on the client's property title.

During the year, a total of $641,000 was written off in bad debts, primarily as a result of foreclosure action initiated by the first mortgagee.

Forecast

During the next three years, the main activity will be in the collection of outstanding loans. It is expected that the majority will be repaid under the terms of a repayment agreement, most of which will conclude by September 1991, or as a result of a property sale.

For the remaining accounts where the office has been unable to negotiate terms of repayment with the client, alternate remedies are being sought with the assistance of the Ministry of Attorney General, such as foreclosure, where feasible, or application for judgment through the courts, in an effort to aid collection of these outstanding debts to the crown.

CONVERSION MORTGAGE LOAN PROGRAM

The program is designed to make more effective use of existing buildings, particularly

residential, commercial and industrial properties in the downtown cores of larger urban centres, by providing mortgage funds to create rental housing units in these buildings. The level of approved funding is determined by the amount required to cover the proposed conversion costs to a maximum of $25,000 per unit, estimated value of the project after conversion and the amount of the owner's equity. This program is administered under the authority of the Home Conversion and Leasehold Loan Act introduced in July, 1974.

Clients of this program are building owners who can prove that a conversion proposal is viable and sound.

Fiscal Year Summary

This program achieves the objectives of provincial and municipal governments to stimulate downtown revitalization and to help ensure a mix of commercial and residential development. During the past few years, this program has been used extensively by developers to convert several derelict warehouse buildings in the old-town area of lower Johnson Street in Victoria into attractive commercial-residential facilities.

During 1987-88, 2 conversion mortgage loans totalling $825,000 were approved, creating 35 new rental housing units. In the previous year, 4 loans totalling $775,000 were approved, creating 31 new rental units.

Forecast

Applications for funding under this program will likely remain stable or increase if there is a drop in the residential vacancy rates. Changes to the building code governing the conversion of older buildings has made the renovating of these buildings more attractive over the past two years. Because these projects are not required to meet standards for new construction, they are more economically feasible to undertake.

SECTION IX
MINISTRY ADMINISTRATION

MINISTRY ADMINISTRATION

Six divisions provide centralized support services to executive committee and field staff in the regions. A description of each of the divisions follows.

FINANCE DIVISION

The Finance Division is responsible for all financial and accounting functions in the ministry and centrally administers several of the ministry's programs.

In fulfilling these responsibilities, the division develops and establishes financial policies and procedures, facilitates financial planning and provides support in the budget process to program and executive staff. The division processes payments for ministry service delivery programs and administrative expenditures and prepares revenue claims for the Province of British Columbia under the Canada Assistance Plan (CAP). In addition, the division administers the Services to Seniors Program, the Dental Services Program, the B.C. Second Mortgage Program, the B.C. Home Program, the Conversion Loan Program and various other housing financing programs.

During 1987-88, the Division continued to participate in the development of the ministry's Management Information System through the specification of appropriate accounting controls. There was also ongoing involvement in the financial administration training program for district managers and supervisors of administrative services. New procedures were introduced to improve control over income assistance cheques.

Finally, two major systems initiatives were being developed in 1987-88 with implementation expected to start in 1988-89. The first is a fully integrated financial management package with accounts payable, commitment accounting and budgetary control capabilities. The other is an automated Day Care Program payment and statistical accounting system which will go on-line throughout the province.

PERSONNEL AND STAFF TRAINING

Personnel Division maintains ministry personnel information and provides a full range of services in the areas of staff recruitment, selection and manpower planning, training and library services, classification and organization, employee relations, occupational health and safety.

The division's services are delivered primarily under the statutory authority of the Public Service Act and the Public Service Labour Relations Act. Specific policies and procedures related to the statutory authority are set by the Ministry of Intergovernmental Relations, Government Personnel Services Division and by the Ministry of Social Services and Housing executive.

Personnel offices are located at Victoria, Vancouver, New Westminster (Woodlands) and Prince George.

As of March 31, 1988, there were 4,466 full-time equivalent positions in the ministry. These full-time equivalent positions included 2,792 assigned to field services, 992 assigned to Woodlands, 518.5 assigned to divisions and headquarters and 163.5 to other assignments. The field services positions are primarily social workers, financial assistance workers, rehabilitation officers and administrative support staff. Institutional positions include nurses, health care workers and other staff required to ensure the operation of a residential facility on a 24-hour basis. Headquarters positions include senior administration, divisional, program and staff support positions.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Administrative Services Division provides direct services to the ministry in the areas of office accommodation, records storage, purchasing and vehicle acquisition. Support through a consultative process is provided for the development, implementation and maintenance of office procedures, asset management systems, vehicle fleet operation guidelines, records management and manuals management.

The division was formed in 1987 and the director and two of the three manager positions were staffed in fiscal 1987-88. Substantial progress in rebuilding and restructuring the division to meet the needs of the ministry has been accomplished.

SYSTEMS SERVICES

Systems Services Division is responsible for the development, operation and maintenance of the ministry's electronic data processing systems in accordance with the ministry's Information Systems Plan as approved by Treasury Board.

During the 1987-88 fiscal year, the division's major priorities included upgrading the ministry's 4300 mini-computer allowing expansion of PROFS (Professional Office System) to all divisional offices and facilitating incorporation of the Home Mortgage Branch into the ministry, completing development of the new Home Mortgage System and installation of personal computers in divisional offices advancing the ministry towards a common standard for office automation and end-user computing.

Other accomplishments for 1987-88 included the addition of new file types "assessment only" and "mentally handicapped" to the central registry allowing better work management, installation of printers in all district offices freeing clerical staff time, implementation of GAIN policy changes and further technical improvements to the ministry's Management Information System.

AUDIT SERVICES

Audit Services Division monitors ministry operations and systems to evaluate the adequacy and effectiveness of internal control systems, and to determine whether policy is correctly and uniformly administered throughout the ministry. These audits are

planned, co-ordinated and executed on a cyclical basis to help achieve the ministry's operational goals.

Audit Services Division is responsible to the office of the Deputy Minister. This organizational structure assures that audit findings and recommendations will be considered and followed up at the highest management level. It also allows the degree of independence needed to achieve audit objectives. Audit appraisal activities are co-ordinated through an audit committee which provides a direct link with the ministry executive committee. The audit committee is structured to endorse and support the activities of the Audit Services Division and to promote a high degree of interest in establishing and maintaining good systems of internal control.

Table 93
Audits Completed, 1987-88

Ministry Regional Offices	2
Ministry District and Resource Offices	48
System Audits	3
Special Audits	1

CORPORATE SERVICES DIVISION

The Corporate Services Division is responsible for development and co-ordination of social and economic research and analysis; policy and program evaluation; intergovernmental negotiations and agreements; and ministry communications, public information and media relations. Branches of the division include Policy, Planning and Legislation; Research, Evaluation and Statistics; Information Services; and Federal-Provincial Agreements.

Policy, Planning and Legislation Branch

This branch is accountable for the provision of general policy analysis and planning recommendations to the minister, deputy minister, executive committee and senior managers within the ministry. The branch also provides consultation and information services to other ministries as required. Policy and planning recommendations are developed from analysis of policies, initiatives and programs within the context of ministry objectives. The ministry's legislative program is co-ordinated by this branch.

During the 1987-88 fiscal year, provincial government announcements of new program initiatives, privatization and the development of the new economic development regions have had a significant impact on the branch's activities. The ministry's internal reorganization planned for Spring 1988, has also required support from the branch.

Ongoing branch responsibilities include the overall co-ordination of ministry policy and planning with respect to ministry purchase of services; development of a ministry-wide Risk Management Program; co-ordination of the ministry's budget process; and management of the ministry's legislative program. This branch provides the formal linkage with the office of the Co-ordinator of Long Range Planning and Policy by co-ordinating development of this ministry's strategic objectives.

The branch also participated in the development of various planning documents and activities, prepared briefing notes requested by Cabinet Secretariat and managed responses to more than 400 submissions to the Cabinet Committee on Social Policy during its tour of the province.

Research, Evaluation and Statistics Branch

The Research, Evaluation and Statistics Branch develops and maintains statistical information for program monitoring and evaluation; analyses the potential cost and client impact of policy and program proposals; develops and performs experimental projects to analyse and evaluate programs; and provides consultation to the deputy minister, executive staff, and divisional and regional directors. The branch's scope of responsibility includes support for all ministry programs.

During 1987-88, the branch designed an evaluation of ministry employment and training programs funded in part under the Canadian Jobs Strategy. Health and Welfare Canada agreed to fund the implementation of this design by the branch. In addition, evaluations of a number of ministry projects were undertaken and the development and enhancement of statistics for program monitoring, policy development, evaluation and research

Information Services Branch

The Information Services Branch plans and implements ministry communications, public information and media relations. The branch advises and assists program staff with program promotion and communication needs and produces and distributes all ministry public information including pamphlets, newsletters and the annual report. Information Services also handles a broad range of inquiries from the media and the public.

During 1987-88, the branch managed a major public information campaign, "Foster Care British Columbia". The province-wide campaign to recruit foster homes included television, radio and newspaper advertisements, posters, pamphlets and distribution of information by corporate co-sponsors. Information Services also worked with other ministries on a government-wide program of Initiatives to Strengthen Families.

Other activities during the year included co-ordination of ministry responses to briefs

submitted to the Cabinet Committee on Social Policy and development of a publications policy to ensure a format for consistent production of all ministry print materials.

Federal-Provincial Agreements Branch

The objectives of the Federal-Provincial Agreements Branch are to ensure that maximum revenues are negotiated for federal cost-sharing agreements; that the ministry's position is presented as requested in federal-provincial, inter-provincial and inter-ministerial meetings; and that, in the preparation of ministry program policy, the impact of federal cost-sharing agreements is taken into account.

The branch also provides advice to ministry staff and executive on administrative and financial arrangements with the federal Department of Indian and Northern Affairs regarding ministry programs for native Indians on and off reserve.

LEGISLATION ADMINISTERED BY THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL SERVICES AND HOUSING

The Ministry of Social Services and Housing administered the following legislation during the 1987-88 fiscal year:

Ministry of Human Resources Act, RSBC 1979, Chapter 274.

This act establishes the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Human Resources in all matters relating to social and public welfare and income assistance.

Guaranteed Available Income for Need Act, RSBC 1979, Chapter 158, (Consolidated September 1985) and Regulations (BC Regulation 479-76, Consolidated January 1986) and Amendments.

This act and its regulations provide for essential financial assistance and social services for eligible individuals and families. The social services include day care, family support services, residential care, counselling and rehabilitation services.

Adoption Act, RSBC 1979, Chapter 4, (Consolidated September 1985) and Regulations (BC Regulation 278-78) and Amendments.

The purpose of this act is to provide the same rights and privileges for adopted children as for children born to parents in a family.

Child Paternity and Support Act, RSBC 1979, Chapter 49, (Consolidated January 1984) and Amendments.

This act provides the mothers of children born out of wedlock with the right to obtain financial support for the children from the fathers.

Family and Child Service Act, RSBC 1980, Chapter 11, (Consolidated September 1985).

This act provides statutory procedures for protection and care of children who are neglected, abused, abandoned or living without proper supervision or guardianship.

Human Resource Facility Act, RSBC 1979, Chapter 185, (Consolidated October 1982) and Regulations (BC Regulation 586-76).

This act and its regulations authorize provincial grants to nonprofit organizations for the development of residential facilities or centres for children, disabled persons and senior citizens.

Community Resource Board Act, RSBC 1979, Chapter 58, (Consolidated January 1984) and Regulations (BC Regulation 655-75).

This act empowers the government to establish human resource and health centres where provincial income assistance programs, social services and health services may be administered by boards composed of local citizens.

Social Workers Act, RSBC 1979, Chapter 389, (Consolidated January 1984).

This act permits the government to establish the Board of Registration for social workers.

Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters Act, RSBC 1979, Chapter 385, Regulations (BC Regulation 298-77, Consolidated January 1984).

This act provides for payment of monthly cash assistance to eligible residents of the province who receive Old Age Security benefits and pay more than 30 per cent of their income for rent.

Residence and Responsibility Act, RSBC 1979, Chapter 364, (Consolidated September 1984) and Regulations (BC Regulations 283-71 and 284-71).

This act requires municipalities to contribute to the costs of specific social assistance programs for persons in need.*

* Municipalities have not had to contribute since 1982.

Effective August 14, 1986, the Minister of Social Services and Housing became responsible for administering the following acts and regulations pertaining to housing.

Home Conversion and Leasehold Loan Act, RSBC 1979, Chapter 170, (Consolidated March, 1983), Regulations (BC Regulation 439/74, Consolidated July, 1984).

This act provides financial assistance to families constructing residences on leasehold property and provides financial assistance to individuals and corporations for conversion of residential, commercial and industrial premises to create new rental housing.

Homeowner Interest Assistance Act, RSBC 1979, Chapter 70, (Consolidated November, 1986), and British Columbia Home Program Regulations (BC Regulation 458/82 Consolidated January, 1984).

This act establishes a program which provides financial assistance to homeowners to reduce the effect of high mortgage interest rates.

Home Purchase Assistance Act, RSBC 1979, Chapter 172, (Consolidated November, 1986), Regulations (BC Regulation 244/83, Consolidated May, 1986) and Cost of Residence Regulations (BC Regulation 269/81, Consolidated July, 1983).

This act provides loans and grants to assist individuals to purchase homes.

Housing Construction (Elderly Citizens) Act, RSBC 1979, Chapter 184, and Senior Citizens Housing Regulations (BC Regulation 164/81).

This act provides financial assistance to local government and nonprofit societies for the construction of low cost rental housing units for elderly citizens of low income.

Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing Act, RSBC 1979, Chapter 277.

This act authorizes continuation of the British Columbia Housing Management Commission and authorizes the commission to act as agent of the crown. Order-in-council 1578 assigns powers, functions and duties to the Ministry of Social Services and Housing.

Provincial Home Acquisition Act, RSBC 1967, Chapter 39, (Consolidated September 1976) and Amendment, Regulation No. 1, (BC Regulation 228/67, Consolidated January, 1985), No. 2, (BC Regulation 106/69, Consolidated January, 1985) and Eligibility Committee Regulation (BC Regulation 120/71).

The provisions of this act which allow the government to provide grants or loans for the purposes of home acquisition for eligible persons, have been supplanted by the Home Purchase Assistance Act. The statute remains in place in order to administer outstanding loans.